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23 December 1981

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2421

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PARAGUAYAN MINISTER SPEAKS AT CASTRIES

PY100127 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Dec 81 p 8

[Speech delivered by Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Noguez at the 11th OAS Assembly at Castries, Saint Lucia--by special correspondent; no date given]

[Text] Mr Chairman: In Quito, in 1974, the OAS Assembly decided to replace the general speeches delivered by foreign ministers with what in the future would be called "informal talks". But that decision has not been effectively complied with, and I avail myself of this opportunity to say that I have requested authorization to speak in order to make a brief statement in the name of my country's government.

But before starting I would like to convey to you, Mr Chairman, the feelings of friendship from the Paraguayan people and government toward the people and government of Saint Lucia whose generous hospitality has been warmly shown to us during these days.

I am also pleased to cordially congratulate you on your appointment as chairman of the present OAS General Assembly.

My delegation has arrived in Castries with the same constructive spirit, with the same creative enthusiasm which Paraguay brings to these international meetings, to which we have become accustomed under the restless pace set by the various problems and expectations created by the international community.

But we also came here, to this beautiful island, attracted by the legendary name of the Caribbean, this sea where the discovery of America began and which spurred our imagination as students and now draws out attention as public men who are responsible for our peoples' future.

Mr. Chairman: We have carefully listened to the different speeches which have so far been delivered at this forum by my distinguished colleagues on various matters relevant to the future and to the life itself of our organization, now more than ever before exposed not only to the usual contingencies of an unpredictable world but--and this is highly disturbing--to the alarming limitation of an insufficient budget with distressing prospects.

We fully share the justified concern manifested over this and other matters, and we reassert our belief that the organization is moving through extremely difficult days during which predictions must be very cautious with no excessive optimism or frustrating pessimism.

The purpose of this brief speech is not to refer to those matters, all of them very important and already broadly and efficiently dealt with by heads of delegations in their previous speeches.

I just want, Mr Chairman, to take advantage of this opportunity to reaffirm and proclaim once again before the honorable representatives of the countries of our continent, the invariable and unmovable Paraguayan position regarding the strict compliance of its international commitments, beginning with those established in the Bogota charter.

I believe this declaration to be useful and necessary, especially at a time when--as I said before--all of us run the imminent risk of flagrantly failing in the enterprise started about a century ago with the purpose of reconciling the interests of the Northern and Southern political communities in our hemisphere.

The "nonintervention" principle has special validity now, when a rapacious and treacherous regime is encouraging everywhere a shameless and criminal intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries. Mr Chairman, my country has been and is still the target of the infamy of Fidel Castro's regime which has been denounced at this forum and a little over a month ago at the UN General Assembly as the promoter and sponsor of guerrillas, subversion, terror and destabilization in several regions in America. El Salvador is at this time the visible target of Castro's ambitions, supported by international communism. In this respect I want to assert categorically that my country will not yield an inch from its position in support of the above principle and that it is ready to consider and to welcome those actions which, within the system's mechanism, could be suggested in order to relieve the dangerous tension in that sister republic in Central America.

We are living on the brink of disaster and we cannot and should not tolerate it. At least Paraguay will never lend itself to betray the guiding principles that gave independence and sovereignty to the old American nations, principles which continue to be unmovable ideals and which are the only ones for which life is worth living and being sacrificed. Ideals of peace, freedom, equality and democracy, as hard to achieve as they are, can only be achieved through a slow and difficult course, with the ups and downs which are usual in our weak human nature.

Mr Chairman: The development of contemporary politics bring new countries into the community of independent nations. We now welcome Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbados to our regional system.

Paraguay, enjoying an honorable seniority in our continent, offers its cordial friendship to these new nations, along with its most fervent wishes that they successfully walk the long but rewarding road to prosperity with unresignable dignity and that they achieve legitimate wellbeing through the only means mentioned in the charter's principles; the means nurtured by the philosophy of the fathers of our continent's political thought.

Mr Chairman: As I said at the beginning, the inventory of new lands for the conqueror's ambition began in these seas. That initial motivation being overcome, let us start working out, here and now, over the seas where the light of Christianity started to illuminate, a theory that could truly strengthen what we call the "inter-American system" which, if not shaped up by us under God's guidance, could enter into a stage of unexpected shadows.

CSO: 3010/444

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH AT OAS MEETING

PY071557 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1945 GMT 4 Dec 81

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Castries, 4 Dec (TELAM)--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion today said that the Latin American countries are moving toward an economic disaster because they are unable to curb the sustained increase of their already huge foreign debt. Stop inflation and balance off their trade and payment balances. Camilion made this statement in his speech to the Ninth OAS General Assembly.

Speaking about inflation, Camilion said that it has become so critical that some of the countries in the area see their monetary systems being threatened and some even seem to have lost all hope of saving them.

Camilion also heavily scored the protectionist attitude of developed nations, an attitude which he described as a common-used tool, and pointed out that most Latin American countries are moving toward the abyss of insolvency at the foreign level. He added that integration has ceased to be a medium-term prospect.

Further on in his lengthy speech, made after that of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Camilion discussed the armed conflicts underway in Central America and said that Argentina believes in the principle of nonintervention in domestic affairs of other nations.

The Argentine foreign minister said: We are seeing how certain countries denounce threats to their own sovereignty while encouraging, sometimes quite overtly, the activities of groups which fire the torch of subversion in neighboring countries. According to the experts, this remark referred to the Nicaraguan situation.

Camilion then spoke about the work which the OAS had been carrying out in the last 20 years and emphasized certain accomplishments. He pointed out, however, that no progress has been achieved along those paths which seemed the most appropriate for attaining continental solidarity, nor have efforts been made toward defending the principles which gave rise to the OAS.

He also requested that something be done to promote the economic recovery of Latin American countries through the so-called horizontal cooperation and explained that

within the framework of this cooperation each country must do its best within its possibilities.

He concluded by requesting a special meeting to discuss continental development so as to strengthen freedom, democracy, justice and well-being in all Latin American countries.

CSO: 3010/444

BRIEFS

GAS EXPORTS TO ARGENTINA--La Paz, 30 Nov (TELAM)--The Energy and Hydrocarbons Ministry has reported that Bolivian natural gas exports to Argentina reached 1,799,674,769 cubic meters between January and October 1981, worth a total of \$273,867,764. It has also been reported that between April and September the price of the gas was of \$4.34 per 1,000 cubic feet, while for the October-December quarter the price was set at \$4.50 per 1,000 cubic feet. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1445 GMT 30 Nov 81 PY]

CSO: 3010/418

COMMENTATOR ON UNDERCURRENTS IN GOVERNMENT

PY040124 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Dec 81 pp 1, 6

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco: "What Henry Saw"]

[Excerpts] Official hinters [meaning officials of the Press and Informations Secretariat] have just prevented several radio and TV stations from broadcasting the speech delivered by Education Minister Carlos Burundarena. In turn, the Interior Ministry yesterday disqualified one of its under secretaries, Mr Carvalho, from being an official spokesman. The government has started censoring itself exhibiting a vigorous self-critical attitude.

As far as we know, ever since the junta decided--"in principle"--to relieve Viola, very little or no progress at all has been made in the field of government planning and organization. In general, the names that are being mentioned do not fit too well in the national "agreement" project about which we reported in this column on Tuesday the 24th. The Army Command seems to be lacking a politically experienced group. General Saint Jean, who heads the General Secretariat of the Army Command, has only the experience that he acquired when he was assistant to General Ongania; and General Iglesias, who spent his military life in the area of communications, started dealing with politics only this year. Thus, the only thing that has been achieved so far are mere sketches.

Here are some names:

Foreign Relations: Costa Mendez, Eduardo Roca.

Education: Cantilo, Astigueta and even--even--Llerena Amadeo.

Justice: Conrado Etchebarne, who was Onaganian's minister, and Roberto Durrieaux, Rodriguez Varela's under secretary. But even the continuity of Frugoli is not ruled out, which seems to be quite disturbing.

Economy: Roberto Alemann, Dagnino Pastore and, as a last resort, Carlos Garcia Martinez. Mr Krieger Vasena, who is someone the command is surely interested in, has reportedly manifested some opposition, since he recommended the reunification of the ministry and its rapprochement to or "coordination" with the Labor Ministry.

Naturally there is no shortage of candidates for the Interior Ministry, but no name has reportedly been thought of yet aside from Mallea Gil, since so far General Galtieri has been very busy with the setting up of the future Army High Command--a task which he is about to conclude or which he has already concluded. The position of the presidential general secretary could be held by General Iglesias, or by Mallea Gil, if the latter is not finally sent back to Washington or appointed interior minister.

As if all this were not enough, until yesterday no final agreement had been arrived at with General Viola either on his "resignation" or on his unlikely staying on as the head of the government, or the formulas which should be applied in either case. About this point, only the North Americans believe that they have accurate information: the latest issue of the BUSINESS WEEK magazine publishes a photograph of Galtieri with a headline stating that the army chief will "succeed" Viola. Yesterday the junta reportedly limited itself to analyzing this issue in the light of the military situation; within a few days, or hours, it will do it again, but this time based on medical reports. According to our sources, the medical team has seriously considered one recommendation: that Viola should travel to the United States to undergo treatment there with time and tranquillity. But the president and his advisers have not yet accepted this recommendation, despite the efforts made by General Videla, who is in a way acting to reconcile the interests of both sides.

CSO: 3010/416

SITUATION CALLS FOR URGENT SOLUTION, SAYS COLUMNIST

PY042034 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 81 pp 1, 6

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco: "How Long?"]

[Excerpts] During the last few hours, General Viola reportedly reiterated his unwillingness to resign and stated his desire to return "soon" to the government house. Several sectors of the "process" feel that if the military junta does not make a decision on the president's relief in the next 4 days, the "institutional" situation of the regime could run into a blind alley. Argentina lives today on a kind of Goyeske merry-go-round of perhaps a rather grotesque one.

One of the more curious aspects of this matter is that, apparently, there are no substantial differences between the political projects of the junta and the Army High Command and those of General Viola. As far as known, the two sides would support a semidemocratic "outcome" in 1984 or 1985 by means of free legislative and municipal elections, and presidential elections with two or three candidates "proposed"--or at least accepted--by the armed forces. Such a circumstance would naturally favor General Viola's position. But his sickness and the close ties that most of his political assistants are said--not entirely without reason--to share with Peronism and with the Developmentist Party do not work in his favor.

One should now ask whether or not under the present circumstances a solution to the presidential problem will be forthcoming before 15 December. Several Viola assistants keep insisting that the president has gotten "noticeably better" and that he will not resign if he is not forced to do so "exclusively" because of his sickness, without pressures or considerations--they add--of any other kind. In turn, those government members who believe that Viola must step down give assurances that the junta has already made a final decision--a negative decision for the present president--on Wednesday the 25th, and even before. Nobody seems to worry--above all those who have "confidence" in Viola's return to government house--about the considerable impairment of Viola's prestige, which has been caused not only by his 7 chaotic months as head of the government but, very emphatically, by the situation in which he has now been put. Since most of his peers now almost ignore his authority, will he be able to exercise any tomorrow? Will the country or just the armed forces be able to have confidence in the continuity of a previously outlined policy after the truly traumatic experience of the latest measures which increased state control?

About this point, reliable military circles have reiterated to us that those measures have literally surprised the military junta members, who had not even been briefed on their preparation. According to this rumor, the "package" of economic measures aimed at increasing state control had begun to be put together a short time before Viola's sickness, without the direct participation of the economy minister, although some schemes which had been devised in his area during the latest months have been reportedly used. It was only at the beginning of this week that the various military organizations reportedly found out about parts of the plan, which had been submitted, however, as a "stop-gap" measure and not as an organized structure. A detailed report of their scope was reportedly submitted only to General Viola before the promulgation of the measures. Then, if this has happened during 1 week of interim presidency, what will happen in 1 or 2 months?

Whatever the case, the truth is that the nation is witnessing today, to its amazement, an inconceivable show which at times can be compared to the great plays of the Spanish golden century and at other times to the plainest "vaudeville," if not to tavern shows. What is the category, for example, of the mysterious "rumor" which circulated the night before last suggesting that Viola had been visited by Galtieri, and which was yesterday denied by the Army Command? The dollar rate hit the 15,000-pesos mark on the parallel market, and this month the interests and amortization of the foreign debt, which totals more than \$1.5 billion, should be paid--with what? There are 1.5 million unemployed, the government has become "Lebanized" and the speculation on the money market and the irresponsibility--the historical one and the other one--have spread everywhere, while the international isolation of the country is becoming ever increasingly absolute. What is the purpose of all this? And until when?

CSO: 3010/416

VIDELA SEEN AS MEDIATOR IN DOMESTIC CRISIS

PY040049 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Dec 81 p 4

[Commentary by Jose Ignacio Lopez: "An Approaching Outcome"]

[Excerpts] The impression that an outcome is near developed yesterday, and not only because the stage of political transition into which the military regime entered since the president became sick constitutes one of those situations which can hardly last--even though the Argentines have experience in having something extraordinary turn into something permanent.

The medical report which will be issued after the performance of the heart tests on the president will be of decisive importance.

It seems to be obvious that a medical report should not be expected to provide the solution to a political situation, but the doctors' decision is essential, above all if the military--as is being insisted upon--are trying to overcome the government crisis--the most serious one in 5 years--without breaking the "legal status," with no "traumatic" effects, as is usually said in huddles, together with a lot of guessing.

What the doctors will say will be important, but what is actually important is the political interpretation which the report will be given. It is because the same report may give rise to different political conclusions--one of them being naturally the patient's own conclusion--and because the intention is to avoid changes in the power scheme, that among the options under consideration, which are not few, has been included one foreseeing the participation of former President Jorge Rafael Videla.

Videla was Viola's predecessor as army commander in chief and as president, and the two of them are linked by a close friendship which has been put to the test during the turbulent political-military hours of the last decade. Videla, as no one else, could undertake the delicate task of analyzing the president's situation with him.

Assurances are being given that Videla shares the opinion that his successor's term is marked by dangerous signs. However, he believes that political considerations cannot deviate from or prevail over human considerations. During his term, Videla showed that he highly appreciates the political value of stability,

even if this value is measured in terms of the international effects which result from any government change.

Videla reportedly talked about these and other matters with Galtieri at the meeting they held on Tuesday, but the former reportedly set up some conditions for his eventual participation. He would only argue with Viola on the advantage of his relief if he counted on the support of the major generals who just over a year ago named the present president as the only army candidate for the job of the "fourth man."

This shows how all pending matters tend to entwine and it explains why until last night any outcome still remained necessarily subordinated to Galtieri's particular decisions in his capacity of army commander in chief.

CSO: 3010/416

COMMUNIQUE ON ARMY APPOINTMENTS

PY051547 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1330 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)--The army headquarters officially confirmed today that five major generals will go into retirement at their own request. The communique also made public the roll of promotions and postings within the army command.

The official communique says:

Notice is hereby given to the public regarding the following resolutions of Lt Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, army commander in chief, regarding promotions, retirements and appointments among the army's higher personnel.

- 1) Promotions to the rank of major general of the following brigadier generals, to be effective 31 December 1981: Egardo Nestor Calvi; Luis Santiago Martella; Eugenio Guanabens Perello; Horacio Jose Varela Ortiz.
- 2) Promotions to the rank of brigadier general of the following command corps and professional corps colonels, effective 31 December 1981: Braulio Argentino Sanchez Avalos; Mario Leoncio Cammisa; Ricardo Gustavo Pianta; Teofilo Saa; Alberto Ramon Schollaert; Carlos Antonio Binotti; Mario Aguado Benitez; Americo Daher; Jose Victor Gutierrez; Jorge Ezequiel Suarez Nelson; Comissariat Col Jose Angel Couto; Medical Corps Col Mario Antonio Remis; Auditing Col Carlos Horacio Cerda.
- 3) Acceptance of voluntary retirement petitions lodged by the following generals: Maj Gen Antonio Domingo Bussi; Maj Gen Eduardo Alberto Crespi; Maj Gen Jose Rogelio Villareal; Maj Gen Reynaldo Benito A. Bignone; Maj Gen Carlos Alberto Martinez; Brig Gen Angel Alejandro Barbieri; Brig Gen Mario Ramon Lepori; Brig Gen Juan Pablo Saa; Sanitation Gen Agatino Federico di Benedetto; Justice Gen Dionisio Andres Ferreyra.
- 4) Appointment to higher army commands: Chief of Army General Staff: Maj Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero will continue to hold this post.

Interior Minister: Maj Gen Horacio Tomas Liendo will continue in this post.

Army I Corps Commander: Maj Gen Cristino Nicolaidas.

Army II Corps Commander: Maj Gen Juan Carlos Ricardo Trimarco will continue in this post.

Army III Corps Commander: Brig Gen Eugenio Guanabens Perello.

Army IV Corps Commander: Maj Gen Llamil Reston.

Army V Corps Commander: Maj Gen Donosvaldo Jorge Garcia.

Commander of Military Institutions: Brig Gen Edgardo Nestor Calvi.

Army General Secretary: Maj Gen Alfredo Oscar Saint Jean will continue in this post.

General Secretary of the Presidency: Brig Gen Luis Santiago Martella will continue in this post.

General Director of Military Manufactures: Brig Gen Horacio Jose Varela Ortiz.

5) Appointment of the following generals and colonels:

National Gendarmerie Director: Brig Gen Raul Jose Ortiz.

Deputy Army Chief of Staff: Brig Gen Rodolfo Enrique Luis Wehner.

Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of Military Institutes Headquarters: Brig Gen Jose Horacio Rukiz.

Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Army IV Corps: Brig Gen Antonio Llamas.

Chief of Section IV-Logistics, Army General Staff: Brig Gen Eduardo Alfredo Esposito.

Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Army I Corps: Brig Gen Mario Alfredo Piotti.

Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Army V Corps: Brig Gen Julio Cesar Ruiz.

Chief of Section II-Intelligence of the Army General Staff: Brig Gen Alfredo Sottera.

Deputy Director of the National Military Manufactures Board: Brig Gen Jorge Alberto Marque.

Chief of Section VI of the Army General Staff: Brig Gen Carlos Maria Filips.

Director of the "Lt Gen Luis Maria Ramos" Higher School of War: Lt Gen Americo Geronimo Herrera.

Director of the Military Geographic Institute: Brig Gen Eduardo Osvaldo Garay.

Engineering Commander of Army Headquarters: Brig Gen Nestor Ruben Castelli.

Commander of the 11th Motorized Infantry Brigade: Brig Gen Oscar Enrique Guerrero.

Commander of the 7th Mountain Infantry Brigade: Brig Gen Ricardo Norberto Flouret.

Communications Commander of Army Headquarters: Col Braulio Argentino Sanchez Avalos.

Director of the TAM [expansion unknown] project: Col Mario Leoncio Cammisa.

Commander of the 12th Infantry Brigade: Col Ricardo Gustavo Pianta.

Commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade: Col Alberto Ramon Schollaert.

Commander of the 2d Armored Cavalry Brigade: Col Carlos Antonio Binotti.

Commander of the 9th Infantry Brigade: Col Americo Daher.

Chief of Section III-Operations at the Joint Staff: Col Teofilo Saa.

Legislative Advisory Committee (CAL): Col Mario Aguado Benitez.

Chief of Section I-Personnel at the Joint Staff: Col Jorge Ezequiel Suarez Nelson.

Instruction Director of the Command Corps of Military Institutes' Headquarters: Col Jose Victor Gutierrez.

General Sanitation Director: Sanitation Gen Adolfo Stel.

Director of the Military Central Hospital: Medical Corps Col Mario Antonio Remis.

Deputy Director of the Army's General Accounting Department: Comissariat Col Jose Angel Couto.

Armed Forces General Auditor: Auditing Col Carlos Horacio Cerda.

CSO: 3010/416

BRIEFS

NEW NAVY SECRETARY--Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)--Rear Adm Joaquin H.L. Gomez has been installed as the new secretary general of the navy. [PY061924 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1530 GMT 4 Dec 81]

GRAIN ACREAGE, HARVEST--The Agriculture Ministry says that soybean plantings set a new record with 2.1 million hectares, which is 9.1 percent up on last season, 38.6 percent up on the 5-year average and 133 percent on the 10-year average. Oats harvested total 500,000 tons, an increase of 15.5 percent. Barley output is 160,000 tons of brewing barley and 40,000 tons of forage barley. Rye, at 200,000 tons, is 29 percent up. Land sown to sunflowers is 12.2 percent greater than last season and is quoted at 1,560,000 hectares. [PY061924 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 6 Dec 81 p 2]

AIRLINE FLEET--Aerolineas Argentinas currently has 7 Boeing 747;s, 6 727's, 12 737's, 2 Fokker F-28's and 6 707's. The 707's are currently used for freight and for long-distance hops in Argentina. [Buenos Aires HERALD in English 7 Dec 81 p 3 PY]

FRENCH FIGHTER PLANES--Five French Super Etendard fighter and attack planes were delivered today to the Argentine Navy. The planes will be allotted to the aircraft carrier 25 de Mayo. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 7 Dec 81 PY]

CSO: 3010/470

COUNTRY SECTION

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO BARBADOS--Bridgetown, Barbados, 8 Dec (CANA)--Dr Carlos Ayerbe presented his credentials as Colombia's ambassador to Barbados to Governor General Sir Deighton Ward today. During his round of official visits, Ambassador Ayerbe will pay courtesy calls on the minister of foreign affairs, Louis Tull, the head of the foreign service, Brazane Babb and the chief of protocol, Wendell Kellman. [FL091927 Bridgetown CANA in English 0939 GMT 8 Dec 81]

CSO: 3025/1010

BRIEFS

SPANISH-ENGLISH RADIO IN INTERIOR--Port-of-Spain, 6 Dec (EFE)--The high commissioner of Great Britain has announced in Trinidad and Tobago that beginning in 1982, Belize will have a radio service in Spanish and English that will reach the country's interior for the first time. The system which will cost \$700,000 includes equipment for a national studio in Belize and two 10-kilowatt FM transmitters near Ladyville. When the system starts operating early in 1982, the country will be able to enjoy of a national radio coverage, the office of the commissioner reported. Belize is in the Caribbean zone that is affected by hurricanes and therefore, humid conditions and pressure changes necessitated the installation of special units to prevent condensation in the equipment. Belizean engineers will receive special training so that they can operate the radio service. [Text] [PA061542 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1324 GMT 6 Dec 81]

CSO: 3010/452

GSA MINERAL SALE PLANS OPPOSED

PY021118 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0822 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 2 Dec (LATIN-REUTER)--Bolivia has expressed its firm opposition to a plan of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to sell its mineral reserves on the international markets and has urged the producer countries to take joint actions for mutual protection.

Bolivia's opposition is stated in a document released last night by the National Mining Council formed by representatives of the country's state and private mining enterprises.

The organization, presided over by Mining Minister Carlos Morales, urged the U.S. Congress and government to reject the GSA request, thus stopping the execution of its new sales policy before 7 December. Unless the U.S. Congress gives an opinion to the contrary, the GSA will place noncommercial tin, wolfram, antimony and silver reserves on the international market, the document said.

Together with Malaysia, Bolivia is one of the world's main tin producers and also produces large amounts of the other minerals.

The communique added that the mere announcement of the mineral sales by the GSA caused price distortions on the international markets. This new sales offensive will cause greater and more serious damage to the economy of the developing countries producing those minerals, it said, adding that the sales plans are a direct attack on the interests of the tin-producing countries.

Reports from London said yesterday that an unidentified tin purchaser who has accumulated 50,000 tons since May has caused a price increase for that mineral of almost 30 percent on the international markets since that time.

The Bolivian Mining Council also expressed its deep concern with the U.S. Government's and Congress' speeding up and intensifying the marketing of reserves accumulated for defense purposes, rather than suspending them.

The document urged the mineral producing countries to adopt joint measures for mutual protection to face the GSA's destabilizing actions.

CSO: 3010/418

BRIEFS

RIGHTISTS' ANTIGOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN--La Paz, 3 Dec (TELAM)--A campaign of disparagement against Bolivian military chiefs with the aim of damaging the integral image of the armed forces was denounced today in the local press. Citing responsible sources, that campaign is attributed to political groups connected to organizations of the extreme right which plan to obstruct the cleanup which is being carried out within the armed forces. It was also indicated that this campaign is intended to interrupt the institutionalization process and the gradual return to democracy, creating an atmosphere of anarchy and lack of confidence in the armed forces. According to the sources, the armed forces will continue working toward the attainment of the objectives set by the government without permitting any kind of alteration. Finally, the newspaper report adds that those responsible for this campaign which is already underway aim to cause repercussions abroad with the intent of creating an antagonistic atmosphere toward the military chiefs, and internally to generate a lack of popular confidence in the armed forces. [Text] [PY050214 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1910 GMT 3 Dec 81]

FOUR STRIKERS EXILED--La Paz, 2 Dec (AFP)--Four persons were exiled and one detained due to the mining strike that occurred last week, the Catholic Church announced here today. The church authorities made public that the leader of the Bolivian Settlers [Colonizadores de Bolivia] and of the illegal Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), Demetrio Barrientos, continues to be detained in Santa Cruz, 1,000 km east of La Paz. They added that in the past few days the couple Edwin Egues and Silvia Pena of Santa Cruz, and Luis Lopez and Eddy Ordonez of La Paz were exiled to Sweden. [Text] [PY032100 Paris AFP in Spanish 0333 GMT 3 Dec 81]

OFFICIAL NETWORK--La Paz, 6 Dec (AFP)--In a communique released here today, the Bolivian Federation of Radio and Television Workers has declared itself in state of emergency and ready to go on strike. The mass media workers made this decision to demand that the government of Gen Celso Torrelio Villa suspend the radio network which has been in force in the country since 17 July 1980. The document charges that the government's latest proposal is another lie and a clear violation of the Bolivian people's freedom of the press and expression. The communique states that more than 200 radio workers have been forced out of their jobs by the radio network which compels all radio stations to carry an official newscast three times a day. The media workers call on all Bolivians to turn off their receivers when the official newscast is on and urged all union organizations to join their protest against the government. Finally, they warn the government

that if the above restrictive measure is not lifted in 10 days, they will call a 48-hour strike which will affect all radio and television stations. [Text]
[PY071124 Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT 7 Dec 81]

CATTLE EXPORTS SLUMP--The National Statistics Institute has reported that cattle exports in 1980 have decreased by 48.79 percent as compared to exports in 1979. Bolivian cattle exports generated \$3.16 million in 1979 and \$1.31 million in 1980. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Nov 81 p 3 PY]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN--Newly appointed Bolivian Ambassador to the Vatican (Ernesto Ruiz Prada) has presented his credentials to Pope John Paul II. He replaces Juan Jose Vidaurre Pinto. [PY081813 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Dec 81]

NEW OIL WELL--According to Bolivian Government oil deposits, the newly discovered "San Roque" oil well at Villamontes in Tarija Department will have a daily production of 6 million cubic feet of gas and 300 barrels of oil. [PY081813 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Dec 81]

SULPHUR PRODUCTION--The Military Social Security Corporation has reported that it has plans to increase production at the country's main sulphur deposit at San Pablo de Napa. Monthly production of refined sulphur now varies between 1,000 and 2,000 tons, 90 percent of which is exported to Chile which uses it in its copper industry. [PY081813 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Dec 81]

LABOR STATISTICS REPORT--The Central Statistics Office of the Labor and Labor Development Ministry has presented the labor minister a yearbook of statistics for 1980. This yearbook reportedly includes a systematic and consistent report on all human resources. According to Labor Undersecretary (Franz Rioja), the results of the study have revealed that out of a total of 1,825,000 persons in the country's labor force, 1,720,000 are employed, while 106,000 are unemployed. He said that to solve this problem, Bolivia must generate the same number of employment opportunities every year, and seek the best use of the human resources available in the country. [PY102123 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Dec 81]

CSO: 3010/470

'LA NACION' RAPS NICARAGUA STATE COUNCIL INTERFERENCE

PA070409 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Nov 81 p 14-A

[Editorial: "Unusual Interference of the Nicaraguan Government"]

[Text] We are still not able to understand why, unless we have not become aware of fact, neither the Costa Rican legislative assembly, which represents the people and is the expression of national sovereignty, nor the media, nor the government offices, have reacted to the strutting and unacceptable interference of the Nicaraguan State Council in top-level government matters and decisions which are of the exclusive purview of the Republic of Costa Rica.

In a statement which has no precedent in the political history of the hemisphere, the Nicaraguan State Council "deplored" and voiced "its concern" over the moral sanction which our legislative assembly sovereignly imposed on President Carazo Odio because of certain actions and concealment of the truth during his participation in the Nicaraguan armed conflict.

If this is any indication, we Costa Ricans have been notified that the decisions made by the Costa Rican legislative assembly can be subject not only to the censorship or "concern" of the Nicaraguan Government, but also, eventually and probably in the near future, to their veto and even to a political or military intervention.

The Nicaraguan State Council has no right to meddle in our internal affairs, or to comment in any way, regardless of the intention behind it, on the sovereign decisions made by our legislative branch as this is not within their purview, much less so if it deals exclusively with Costa Rican matters having nothing to do with our neighbors.

The statement was published by the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica in their bulletin No 8, that is, by the diplomatic mission of a neighbor country, which has no right to interfere in our own matters. In any other country, this would have immediately caused a diplomatic problem and the Nicaraguan ambassador would have been declared "non grata" because of this manifest interference in the internal affairs of Costa Rica. It also would have raised a protest from the legislative assembly against what obviously constitutes a dangerous and absolutely unacceptable precedent and places dark clouds over our future relations with Nicaragua.

The first paragraph of the Nicaraguan State Council's resolution reads: "To deplore the moral sanction imposed by the Costa Rican legislative assembly on Rodrigo Carazo Odio, president of the rpeublic, because of the help he gave to the FSLN during their struggle to overthrow the Somozist dictatorship."

This flagrant and disrespectful act against our sovereignty and against our legislative assembly's top-level internal decisions regarding the actions of the chief of state should not be tolerated, even more so if the Nicaraugan State Council makes statements which distort the truth, and at the same time cynically proclaims that the help was not for the Nicaraguan people, but for the small FSLN group.

CSO: 3010/459

BRIEFS

NATIONAL BUDGET UNDER FIRE--San Jose, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The 1982 budget of the Costa Rican Government will be \$500 million. After it was announced, various defects were pointed out in the national congress such as that of not including the decreed salary increases for government workers which should go into effect next year. The government must adjust the salaries of the public administration workers beginning 1 January to compensate for the loss of the purchasing power of the national currency (the colon) due to the devaluation and inflation. Another concern which was expressed today is over the small sum that is allocated for the purchase of heavy machinery and for the implementation of projects. According to political observers, with what has been budgeted, "the next government will only be able to finish the projects that the current government of Rodrigo Carazo has begun." The San Jose newspaper LA NACION indicated that the approved budget doesn't really reflect the fiscal situation since it was adjusted so that it only shows a deficit of only \$100 million. A week ago the IMF reported that the official deficit will be \$250 million next year. [Text] [PA021510 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0040 GMT 2 Dec 81]

CSO: 3010/459

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH JAMAICAN PNP DELEGATION

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW 22 Nov 81 p 3

[Text]

● **COMMANDER IN Chief** Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, met on November 14 at the Palace of the Revolution with the delegation from the People's National Party (PNP) of Jamaica headed by Dr. Percival Patterson, vice-president of the PNP and former deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Jamaica.

In the course of the fraternal meeting, Dr. Patterson conveyed to the commander in chief a message from the leader of the PNP, Michael Manley, expressing his fraternal solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and the Cuban people at a time when imperialism is threatening to carry out new attacks on Cuba.

The various topics discussed in the meeting included the relations between the two parties; the international situation; the capitalist crisis and its disastrous effects on

the underdeveloped countries; the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; and the peril to world peace resulting from the policy of the new U.S. administration.

The commander in chief expressed his gratitude for the message from former Prime Minister Michael Manley and for the presence in Cuba of the PNP delegation precisely at a time when imperialism, resorting to slander and lies, is threatening to attack the Cuban Revolution and after the Jamaican Government, following Washington's dictates, broke diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Fidel sent greetings to the people of Jamaica and expressed his desire that the historical ties between the two peoples be further strengthened.

The meeting was attended by Manuel Piñeiro, member of the Central Committee of the Party and head of the Central Committee's America Department.

ICAP Signs Solidarity Accord with Various Groups

["Text" of the declaration signed on 11 November 1981 at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) by some 250 social, scientific, religious and sports figures in Cuba]

Disarmament, détente and peace are closely tied to social progress and the legitimate aspiration of the peoples of the world to make rational use of their natural and human resources and to further the material and spiritual development of all mankind.

Peace — peace which benefits all the peoples on earth — is a pressing universal need. Mankind today faces the dangers of a nuclear holocaust as a result of the spiraling arms race and the irrational policy of the present U.S. administration, which threatens world peace.

The Cuban people face not only these dangers but also those which derive directly from U.S. imperialism's aggressive, threatening attitude toward the Cuban Revolution.

The Reagan administration has unleashed a fierce campaign of threats and slander against our people, evidently designed to pave the way for military aggression.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba has repeatedly challenged the United States to present proof of its accusations against Cuba, but

naturally, the Reagan administration and its spokesmen have been unable to do so.

This campaign on the part of the reactionary group which controls the executive branch in the United States and the statements by its spokesmen and agents concerning Cuba's alleged military intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador are unusual occurrences in a supposed state of peace, represent a return to times we had thought long gone and constitute a challenge to our people and the rest of mankind.

With the recent statements by Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers, and through countless rallies, the Cuban people have met the U.S. Government's challenge with resolution and revolutionary firmness.

The Cuban writers, scientists, artists, journalists, churchmen, professionals and athletes express our solidarity with the government's stand in response to the campaigns, attacks and threats by the U.S. executive. We firmly support the aims of defending our principles, first

of all, with our own shield, and we're prepared to answer for our principles and for our stand with our own lives. We support the affirmation that "The Cuban people will live with their Revolution or every last man and woman will die along with it."

Under these circumstances, we call on all progressive men and women, all who cherish peace and justice and all friends of Cuba to show their solidarity and to do so publicly. We stress that this is a question not only of condemning direct aggression but of preventing it.

Our people do not want confrontations, conflicts or war; our people want peace. But, together with this truth and those desires, lie our firmness and determination to defend our right to independence and sovereignty, to build a new life, to achieve happiness, to defend our principles, to die for our country and to live.

Signed at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, Havana, November 11, 1981, Year of the 20th Anniversary of Giron.

FIDEL CASTRO INTERVIEWED ON RED SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW 22 Nov 81 pp 5-6

[Text]

● ON THE morning of November 15 the commander in chief was able to see for himself the enthusiasm, joy and fighting spirit which characterized Red Sunday as he toured various construction projects, factories, agricultural areas and service centers in the provinces of Havana and City of Havana.

Starting out very early amidst a steady drizzle, when the mass mobilization itself was just getting under way, Fidel's first visit was to the hospital being built in Central Havana, which is due to be finished next year. He was accompanied by Minister of Construction José López Moreno.

Next he went on to the Central Havana children's hospital and the Cerro children's hospital, which are being expanded. The work there is quite advanced, and a polyclinic is also to be built.

After a slow progress along Rancho Boyeros Avenue, due to the heavy traffic of trucks taking people to the outskirts of the city, Fidel's jeep arrived at the welding shop belonging to the Cubana de Acero iron and steelworks, where the personnel have pledged to build 1200 Bayamo 81 subsoil removers over and above the production plan in time for the coming sugar harvest. Red Sunday at Cubana de Acero was given over to manufacturing and assembling the first 30 of these removers. Fidel talked with Roberto Castro, the administrator, who reported on the work being done by the 1000 employees of the factory and 150 who had come from elsewhere.

Fidel talked with several workers about what they were doing and greeted leaders of the Party and government who were working as lathe operators and working in other sections of the factory on this Red Sunday.

It was explained to Fidel that there are two 12-hour shifts at Cubana de Acero in order to fulfill their pledge to build the 1200 machines.

Fidel was seen off by the enthusiastic workers, applauding and chanting "Fidel, Fidel."

From Cubana de Acero Fidel went on to the 19 de Abril agricultural project in Quivicán. A long detour was required because Rancho Boyeros was still loaded with trucks taking workers to the city outskirts.

Fidel visited the vegetable gardens, displaying particular interest in the planting of the Bolívar variety of tomatoes. He talked with several of the project's employees, with Agustín Montes de Oca, its director, and with chief of vegetable cultivation Agustín Hernández. Fidel noted that the Bolívar tomato has a very high yield and wanted to know how densely the plants were spaced. He was pleasantly surprised when told they were only 17 days old, commenting on their strong stems.

He expressed an interest in other vegetables grown at the 19 de Abril project, such as radishes, turnips and Swiss chard.

"It will be a good year for vegetables," Fidel said "as long as we don't have bad weather like last year."

On his way back into the city Fidel stopped off at the Vietnam Heroico spare parts factory, where administrator Antonio Sánchez and trade union general secretary Pedro Díaz reported on the Red Sunday mobilization, the work being done and the problems encountered.

Fidel was told that there were 168 workers mobilized for Red Sunday and he asked about the enlargement of the factory and the work they were doing. The workers explained they were turning out parts for the KTP cane harvester and train wheels. Enlarging the factory was one of the main topics that came up in the conversation with the workers. The number of workers will be doubled when the enlargement is completed. "We must speed this up," Fidel remarked.

It was already after 11:00 a.m. when Fidel arrived at the Palace of the Revolution and toured the offices of the Council of State, where the workers were involved in various jobs for Red Sunday.

José M. Miyar took him around the offices, and Fidel greeted the comrades. "Picking coffee is healthier but your paper work is also necessary," he said.

Finally Fidel talked to the Cuban press about Red Sunday, the tasks in agriculture, the start of the sugar harvest, and the U.S. maneuvers against Cuba.

FIDEL SPEAKS TO CUBAN PRESS

FIDEL.— I visited the Central Havana hospital, which will be ready to go into service early next year. Then I visited the children's hospital in Central Havana, and after that the children's hospital in the Cerro municipality. The polyclinic and other construction work there is going along very well. My next visit was to Cubana de Acero iron and steel works. Practically all the workers were there as well as several volunteers, among them Pedro Miret, Joel Domenech and Pepin Naranjo. They were all working hard, some operating the lathes and others doing other work.

Next we visited the 19 de Abril agricultural project. It seems as if it'll be a good year for vegetables, I mean, as long as we are not visited by bad weather, because it was bad weather that ruined the first part of the work the farmers had done. I repeat, it looks as if it'll be a good year. We also visited the Vietnam Heroico factory and then we came here to the offices of the Council of State. I see that maintenance work is being done in my office too, judging by some ladders I've seen around.

The drizzle early this morning was quite annoying, and the traffic was pretty heavy. We drove along part of Rancho Boyeros Avenue and the traffic there was really tremendous. Some of the people on their way to work got wet but some of them carried plastic raincoats to protect themselves from the persistent drizzle. It looked as if it would rain all day but it cleared up later on and in the interior of the province the weather was splendid.

There were a great many people mobilized everywhere, and traffic was really heavy. Later, when I left Cubana de Acero steelworks to go to the 19 de Abril project I first had to go by way of Marianao, then drive along the highway to San Antonio de los Baños and after that go through the town of Bejucal in order to arrive there. I had to make a real detour because there was no other way to get there on account of the heavy traffic.

JOURNALIST.— (A question on the beginning of the sugar harvest).

FIDEL.— We're beginning with one sugar mill, the América Libre. Only one. If this mobilization were to take place, say, in February we could break every grinding record. The harvest is scheduled to start today with the América Libre. Other sugar mills will also start in November, and most of the rest in December. Let's see if we can make as good a harvest as last year's. Every possible measure has been taken and great efforts have been made. But I'm not going to say how many tons of sugar we'll produce.

JOURNALIST.— One could say that this mobilization today sums up the whole recent process of mobilization.

FIDEL.— Yes, that's true. I think that it was that spirit that contributed to today's mobilization. However, in a general sense, these mobilizations are coming to be traditional, historic events. And I remember that on other occasions they've also been huge. It's very difficult to distinguish among them. One thing that is noticeable, though, is the fighting spirit.

JOURNALIST.— I meant it in the sense that the foundations for this one were already...

FIDEL.— We must be prepared to wage two battles. We must be prepared to face up to an attack and to tackle the tasks of production. We must be prepared for war and for peace! I believe that, in this sense, a great effort has been made throughout the last few weeks.

What newspaper are you from?

JOURNALIST.— I'm from the TV news. We were a bit late because....

FIDEL.— Oh, it's not your fault. It's actually our fault, because I never think of the journalists. I appreciate them very much, but I never think of them when I go on a tour. So since I left very early in the morning I forgot all about them. I feel sort of shy on a day like this and I don't like to be in the limelight. This is why I almost never let the journalists know.

It's also becoming a tradition for journalists to participate in these tours. I apologize and I promise that next year I'll call you early so you'll be on time.

I really suffer when I see those cameramen loaded with all that heavy equipment. This is a tough Red Sunday.

What other newspapers are represented here?

JOURNALIST.— Granma, Juventud Rebelde, and AIN news agency.

FIDEL.— You were at the 19 de Abril project? It's ahead of schedule. They're going to have an exceptionally good vegetable crop this year unless there's bad weather. Last year they had to go through all that bad weather and it was necessary to replant everything between November and December. That's why there was such an accumulation of potatoes and green vegetables at one moment. The ideal thing would be to plant early so as to prolong the distribution period as long as possible. But last year practically all the crops ripened at the same time.

I was quite worried by that hurricane, the way it moved along half the length of the island and then shot up to the northeast and crossed to Camagüey. It did a bit of damage over there. But there's no doubt that when those hurricanes come further westward they cause much more damage because they affect the tobacco, vegetables and bananas. Those hurricanes that we get in November, with heavy rain, cause a lot of damage to those basic crops. In Camagüey they don't have tobacco plantations, nor do they have large vegetable farms as we do here in Havana province. In Camagüey, hurricanes pass through sugarcane areas and cause some damage to the canefields. The Cándido González, Halcón and Batalla de las Guásimas sugar mills were the ones hardest hit by the floods.

But those people have a tremendous fighting spirit. They're determined to meet the sugar production plan in every one of their sugar mills. I was told that the workers in Camagüey are working round the clock to make sure the start of the harvest is not delayed. They protected their motors and the mill trains as best they could and even though the water got into some of the sugar mills very little damage was done. And in some of the towns the floods were so bad that people were moving about in boats.

Those people there are making a tremendous effort because they don't want any reduction in the production plans of any of the sugar mills affected by the floods. There's no doubt that the hurricane would have caused much more damage

if it had hit this part of the country. We went through that experience in 1979, at the time of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries' Conference when even the airport was cut off by the floods. Last year, too, remember, we had a hurricane that caused tremendous damage. It wiped out all the tobacco seedling nurseries. Every nursery had to be replanted, and yet Pinar del Río province had a record crop. It is to be expected that this year the tobacco crop and all the others will be even better than last year's. And how about the banana plantations in Havana province? Every time a hurricane hits the province that means the end of them.

This year — at least, so far — we've had no strong hurricanes or cyclones in the western part of the island. And rains haven't been abundant, either. We could even say that there was a scarcity of rain, much more so than last year, for our sugarcane fields. And yet, never before was such a great effort made in cultivation and weeding. That compensated for the lack of rain. For example, in May there wasn't any rain to speak of, except in a few places. Then July was rainless. It rained a little in September and was dry in October. Generally speaking, the rains have been below the historical average. Yet in spite of all this, the sugarcane is in very good shape. I don't think the sugar production plans will be affected in any way.

JOURNALIST.— The cultivation of the cane-fields....

FIDEL.— Yes. This year it was better than ever before. And next year it'll be better still. This year deep cultivation was applied in over 270 000 hectares. Next year deep cultivation will be applied to ratoon cane wherever the soil makes it possible, in other words around 950 000 hectares. The soil becomes compacted by the weight of tractors, cane wagons and cane harvesters, and whenever it's possible to do deep cultivation the yield goes up.

And for just that reason they were working hard today on the construction of the Bayamo subsoil removers at Cubana de Acero steelworks — they call them the Bayamo 81 type. The program calls for 1000 of them and 1000 of the Mayarí type, and they're also making leaf hillers. Everywhere green cane is cut there's a huge pile of leaves left on the ground and that makes it impossible for the subsoil removers to work. Several new strains of sugarcane were planted and it was necessary to replace the Barbados-4362 strain in an area of some 450 000 hectares. And that was done in the space of two years. No other country in the world could eliminate sugarcane smut in two years the way we did. That's why early planting this year covered some 400 000 hectares. Late planting, however, will be a little below the initial goal, since most of the land was used for early planting. There are several in the country, for example in southern Camagüey and some parts of Matanzas — to tell the truth, there are areas in nearly every province — where no soil conditioning can be done in spring on account of the rains, because the operation calls for dry weather. That's why late planting will be short of the goal. But I don't think this will have any effect on the availability of cane next year. Considering the method of cultivation that will be used with all the cane and assuming that it'll be a normal year — not like this year, which was below the average yields — by 1983 we should have all our cane ac-

ording to plan. The way things look and the way the cane is being treated, I'd say that in 1983 we'll have more cane than we have planned.

The difference between last year's situation and this year's is that last year the price of sugar was three times higher than it is now. Last year we had the extra incentive of the high price, but this year it's a question of a real commitment: we can't afford to produce a single ton of sugar less than the amount we have planned. There's also an important program for saving fuel. Intensive work is being done in every branch of the economy in regard to sugarcane agriculture to cut down on fuel consumption, because it is possible to cut down even more on fuel consumption.

We must continue to advance in spite of all the difficulties, in spite of the world economic crisis and the low sugar prices. Many countries faced with these difficulties may not be able to sell their sugar. Nobody knows what'll happen. To begin with, the Yankees are unable to overcome their difficulties. On the contrary, the daily news dispatches talk about a declining economy, recession, etc., and the outlook for the Yankees doesn't seem to be too promising.

JOURNALIST.— There's no doubt, is there, that the strong solidarity with Cuba in view of the imperialists' threats against our country is really remarkable.

FIDEL.— It's been an intensive, broad and remarkable demonstration of solidarity, and I believe that it's had a very important effect. It's certain that we discovered the Yankees' plans through all the lies they were making up. I didn't want to go too far into politics today, I'd rather talk about agriculture and Red Sunday. But since you've asked me, I believe that it was very important that we found out what they were planning, and we have denounced them and unmasked them and we've put them in an embarrassing position. On the 24th I mentioned that article published in the U.S. press about the alleged shipment of between 500 and 600 special troops to Nicaragua. That's a big lie, a tremendous lie from beginning to end, an absolute lie. We have never sent a single soldier from any special troops. The idea never even occurred to us.

Obviously they had been fabricating lies of this sort in order to implement their plans and to find some justification for their aggressive actions in Central America and against Cuba before U.S. public opinion and international opinion.

I denounced it all on the 24th, I said that it unquestionably amounted to a stratagem, that they hadn't dared to issue an official statement and resorted instead to using some journalists to do it for them.

However, just 72 hours later we found out that although it hadn't been an official government statement that had supposedly come from some journalists, the secretary of state had begun contacting certain governments to inform them — important governments in important countries — to inform them just that, that Cuba had sent from 500 to 600 special troops and that they would be compelled to take action, etc.

I didn't know any of this on the 24th, but you could say I guessed what they were up to on the 24th. But just 72 hours later we had confirmation that Mr. Haig had contacted

certain important governments to inform them of what journalists were saying.

In other words, the journalists didn't make anything up. It was the State Department that passed that information on to the journalists. The State Department was already behind all this.

It was then that we challenged them. Because in his contacts with these governments, Haig said he had evidence. So we said, show your evidence!

We haven't mentioned the governments involved because it is up to them to say whether it is true or false that they informed certain governments. But they haven't dared to deny it. Some of their spokesmen said they were not aware if certain governments had been notified. But we do know it and have said so clearly. What we are now waiting to hear is whether or not they informed certain governments. Naturally, they can't deny it. Nor can they prove — because it is an absolute lie — that we sent 500 to 600 special troops there, according to them in the second half of September. Our teachers were the ones who arrived in Nicaragua in the second half of September. They arrived there between September 16 and October 16, 2000 teachers all together: 1019 women and 981 men. It was a contingent of 2000 teachers that was returning there for the start of classes.

And we have recorded all the trips, the names of all the teachers, where they come from and where they are now stationed in Nicaragua. We have all this information here, ready in case they say anything.

And so our challenge has placed them in an embarrassing situation: show the evidence! Say whether or not it is true that what was published in the newspaper by these two journalists was passed on to other important governments. Well, they can't answer. They're keeping quiet. But we had already disproved some of their other lies. The lie that we sent advisers to El Salvador, the lie that the weapons sent to us here for the defense of our country, for the Territorial Troop Militia, were being redistributed in Central America. All these lies on which we had challenged them before to speak the truth. We challenged them at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. They were cooking up their story at that time and we exposed them for what they were, we denounced them and we have completely demoralized them. They have had to shut up and have been branded as liars, as irresponsible people. Because they gave that information to certain governments and now these governments are saying: "Listen, you pulled the wool over my eyes."

They not only passed on the information, they said they had evidence. So we've asked them two things: where is the evidence? show the evidence! Secondly, is it or isn't it true that you informed certain governments, along with threats against Cuba? We've caught them red-handed. They don't know what to do.

There are a lot of people in the United States who have realized it's all a lie. So in a certain way we have frustrated their maneuver.

But they'll keep coming up with pretexts, they'll keep inventing lies. They had it all worked out, well planned. Now they don't

know what to do. Apart from the fact that they've run up against solidarity with Cuba on this concrete problem and also a growing resistance in Europe and elsewhere to U.S. foreign policy. People realize that this adventurist policy can lead to war. And it's most likely — if it goes unchecked, if there is no resistance, if there is no opposition from world opinion, that it will end in war. Look at the demonstrations in Europe, the universal opposition that U.S. policy is prompting, coupled with the fact that the economic policy of this administration is a catastrophe. They've already had to give up all their promises of a balanced budget. There are some people who figure that the U.S. budget deficit will reach 100 000 million dollars in 1982. Inflation goes on, recession goes on and internal contradictions have sprung up within the administration itself.

Even the principal author of this economic policy, Budget and Planning Director Stockman, said it was all cockeyed and was going to solve absolutely nothing.

And that was just what we said at the Congress, in the Report to the Second Congress of the Party I mentioned they weren't going to solve any of those problems, but that they were dangerous. I also mentioned it later in other occasions and the events are proving that they are not going to solve those problems with their policy of fabulous arms expenditures, tax cuts for the affluent on the theory that it will encourage investments to reactivate the economy. They are caught between inflation and recession.

They thought that was an apparently easy problem. And so they're faced with inflation, recession and the arms race. That's no way to solve the economic problems, which are growing worse.

So there's disagreement within the United States itself and there's international opposition. The economic policy of this administration is being discredited not only within the United States but throughout the whole world. U.S. foreign policy is meeting with growing resistance from the peoples of the world. So things are not turning out the way they expected.

We must keep on working, as we are doing now, in two directions: strengthening defense, meeting the economic problems head-on, improving efficiency and making an all-out effort to be prepared to face both the dangers of war and the problems of peace, without any kind of illusions, without growing overconfident.

All I can say now is that we frustrated their maneuver. That much I can say. We've placed them in an embarrassing situation and they haven't answered our challenge yet. We must be on the alert to see what kind of stratagem they cook up next, what new lies they fabricate. To put it simply, we've had a big wave of international solidarity: all the progressive people, all the democratic people, all without exception, everywhere, have voiced their intention to support us. But they have renewed their threats. Appearing before Congress, Haig reiterated his threats against Central America, against Cuba. When the representatives there asked him whether or not there were plans, or if there were assurances they were not going to carry out a policy of

destabilization in Nicaragua, he said no, he could not give them that assurance.

There are some who feel they are also trying to intimidate Nicaragua, intimidate Cuba. That would be the stupidest thing in the world. After threatening us for 23 years they haven't yet succeeded in intimidating anybody here.

So they're wasting their time if they really think they can intimidate anyone.

Well, many things are now being said, but when questioned by U.S. legislators in the House — I think it was the Foreign Relations Committee in the House — Haig was forced to come clean.

JOURNALIST.— Recently the official in charge of the Cuban desk even made some statements.

FIDEL.— Yes, that official in charge of Cuban affairs spoke somewhere in Costa Rica....

JOURNALIST.— He even contradicted....

FIDEL.— Let me tell you, what each one of them says contradicts what the others say. Now, Reagan made a more moderate statement on the 10th. For the first time since he took office he changed his language, he acted less aggressively, less bellicose. That was on the 10th. He said he had no plans of sending U.S. soldiers anywhere in the world. Of course, that can be subtle, "sending soldiers." He can send warships, he can send planes, etc.

But there's no denying that Reagan's statement on the 10th was more moderate than his previous ones.

And yet on the 12th Haig said just the opposite. As far as the Caribbean, Central America, Nicaragua and Cuba are concerned, he told Congress just the opposite of what Reagan said. Meanwhile, a certain Enders — I believe he's State Department assistant secretary for Latin American Affairs — made some warmongering statements in Quito. Then Frechette spoke somewhere else. I've read them. He said some silly things, nothing else. But they also have some military delegations touring Latin America. For this whole situation coincided with a meeting of the Latin American army commanders being held in Washington. The United States has obviously been seeking the complicity of some Latin American governments and has been toying with the idea of using troops from Latin American armies — troops

from the Chilean army, the Argentine army, etc. — in Central America. They have been trying to get South American army troops and bring them to Central America. This is one of the ideas these people have.

I believe they are definitely meeting with a lot of resistance, with the exception of some governments that apparently feel honored that the United States would use them to provide mercenary troops for Central America.

But what good would that do to them? They can only succeed in setting the whole prairie on fire. If they succeed in carrying out their plans, all they're going to do is start up a fire. They're going to create a problem that can't be solved if they decide to go out in search of South American troops to intervene in Central America. They'll be creating extremely serious problems.

I don't think any of that can solve the problems in Latin America or Central America. Unquestionably the only sensible, wise thing to do is to come out in support of the stand of many countries today, that of searching for a negotiated political solution to the problems in El Salvador and Central America. That's the stand taken by Mexico and France, the only wise, sensible solution to that situation. Intervention or war is not the way, nothing will be solved that way. They'll only make all the problems worse.

The only sensible stand they can adopt is giving their support for a negotiated solution and help find one, a negotiated political solution among all the parties. It's the only thing. Anything else is, well, like setting the whole continent on fire, no question about that.

They have been reluctant so far to support a political solution and favor instead a military solution: crushing the revolutionaries to the last man, wiping them out. But that's impossible. It has never happened nor can it ever happen.

Well, you have succeeded in making me also talk a little bit about foreign policy on this Red Sunday, while all I planned to talk about was production and agriculture. But that's okay with me.

'EL PAIS' ON 'SECRET' CUBAN-U.S. CONTACTS

PA101405 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 5 Dec 81 pp 1, 3

[Dispatch by Jesus Ceberio: "Secret Meeting in Mexico Between Haig and Cuban Vice President"]

[Text] Mexico City--U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Vice President of the Cuban Council of State Carlos Rafael Rodriguez met in Mexico City 23 November according to what completely reliable diplomatic sources have disclosed to EL PAIS.

This is the first meeting held by U.S. and Cuban officials of ministerial rank since the missiles crisis in October 1962. Moreover, it comes amid a state of maximum tension between the two governments, characterized by the U.S. threats to adopt new punitive measures against the island and by the state of general alert decreed by the Castro government. A fortnight ago Western observers residing in Havana were describing the state of Cuban-U.S. relations as the most delicate in the last 19 years.

The meeting between the two politicians took place in an office located on the third floor of the Mexican Foreign Ministry, with Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda as host and sole witness. The news had not become known to the press until yesterday, and was also not known by most diplomatic circles in this capital, even those which are usually well informed about U.S. activities.

The preparations for this meeting were carried out in strict secrecy, with the good offices of Mexico, which during this year has reiterated its readiness to act as a mediator in the area.

One very significant fact prior to this meeting was the presence of Fidel Castro, Raul Castro and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez on 20 November at the residence of Mexican ambassador in Havana Gonzalo Martinez Corbala. The Mexican diplomat traveled to this capital 2 days later, just on the eve of Haig's arrival on an official visit. At that time the Cuban authorities were maintaining complete secrecy about their dispute with the United States, following the violent speech delivered by Fidel Castro on 24 October.

Asked whether this silence could be the prelude to some negotiations between the Cubans and Americans, an influential ambassador in Havana replied that he could say "neither yes nor no."

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez' visit to Mexico has been kept strictly secret, despite the fact that he also met in this city with President of the Republic Jose Lopez Portillo and Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations Jorge Castaneda.

A Cuban diplomat yesterday confirmed Carlos Rafael Rodriguez' visit to Mexico, coinciding with Haig's visit, but denied that the two had met, although he acknowledged that he had been received by the aforementioned Mexican politicians.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez holds in addition to his capacity as vice president of the Council of State and member of the Cuban Politburo the position of director of Cuba's foreign policy, above the foreign minister.

The sources of information were unable to supply any detail concerning the contents and results of the meeting, although they deemed it very positive that the two governments have agreed to at least an initial dialogue between them to ease their tensions.

However, since the meeting between the two men, Alexander Haig has kept up his accusations against Cuba (he did so again before the OAS Assembly on the island of Saint Lucia yesterday) for exporting its revolution to Central America. For its part, the Cuban Government denies that so far this year it has sent arms and supplies of any kind or troops to El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Mexico is following the Central American situation with the utmost interest and is conducting considerable diplomatic activity to maintain its considerable influence in the region. The Mexican Government has offered to act as "messenger" between Washington and Managua.

CSO: 3010/460

CUBA DENOUNCES U.S. PANAMA CANAL TREATY VIOLATIONS

PA101335 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 9 Dec 81

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The history of the peoples of our America is marked in the past 1 and 1/2 century by permanent U.S. meddling in the domestic affairs of the region. Most Latin American countries have experienced the outrage of the dirty U.S. imperialist boot, trampling the soil of the fatherland, with ensuing offenses and insults—hence the anti-imperialist spirit that prevails in the countries south of the Rio Bravo and the congenital hatred aroused in them by the arrogant attitude of the U.S. Government.

One of the peoples of Latin America that has most felt the humiliating presence of the U.S. imperialists in its territory is the people of Panama, who from 1865 to 1964 were the target of 15 direct interventions by the U.S. marines and are now the victim of intervention, with 14 military bases present in the Canal area.

These installations hold more soldiers than the regular [Panamanian] national guard troops and are a logistics center against the peoples of Latin America.

Three military training centers operate in the Panama Canal Zone [as heard]--the School of the Americas, with some 40,000 graduates, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, which groups 14,000 armed units [as heard], and the Patrol Boat Training course, in which 1,400 Latin American students are trained under the direct guidance of the Pentagon and the CIA, which gives this course not only a military but an espionage character.

It is also known that in the enclaves of the U.S. armed forces in the Canal area, Chilean and Argentine aircraft refuel and take arms and specialists in torture and repression to the genocidal regimes of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. A few months ago Pentagon specialists drafted a document in which they recommended to the government that if the Carter-Torrijos treaties on the Panama Canal failed, that interoceanic waterway be placed under the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, which Washington controls directly.

Visits by ranking U.S. military personalities are frequent to those installations. In the past few months these contacts have increased in an unusual way which obliges political observers to think that the most reactionary circles of the

United States want to pave the way toward taking total control of the Canal and trampling on the bilateral treaties on this interoceanic waterway signed in 1977 and implemented 2 years later.

This would not be surprising if one considers the constant violations of the spirit and letter of these agreements committed by the United States for a long time. Proof of the interfering objectives of the U.S. troops based in the Panama Canal is a recent statement by Col Mark Richards, official spokesman of the U.S. southern command, who stated in Panama City that the armed troops there are prepared for what he termed any contingency that may occur in Latin America. Those forces, he stressed, are in charge of carrying out possible land operations in Central and South America.

But the Panamanian people have not stopped fighting a single day against the Yankee imperialist presence in their territory and firmly support the Isthmian government in its just demands that the letter of the Canal treaties be faithfully fulfilled and that the region be made a zone of peace. In this battle for the total Panamanian sovereignty of the Canal, the people of that nation have the unreserved support of the peace-loving and progressive forces.

CSO: 3010/460

HAVANA TV INTERVIEWS HIJACKED PASSENGERS, CREW

FL090201 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Statements by passengers and crewmembers of three hijacked Venezuelan airlines on arrival in Havana City's Jose Marti International Airport--names not given]

[Text] [Male passenger] The hijackers behaved very well with us. They became our friends and were our comrades. They were telling jokes. They were very friendly. In addition, they were very relaxed in our relations.

[Female crewmember] They treated us excellently. We were not mistreated in any way shape or form, physically or verbally. They are a very kind bunch of boys and treated us very nicely, with great respect. We are very grateful to them, both the crew and passengers. In fact they were very considerate. We were with them since yesterday at 0600 hours when we left Maiquetia. At the beginning the situation was very embarrassing for us and also surprising. Later on, we got used to it and got along with them. We lived dramatic moments. Thank God, everything had a good ending. We are alive and very happy.

[Male crewmember] We are very happy with the assistance given to us by the Cuban authorities and, above all, the organization we have seen here. It has been excellent.

[Iberia Airline employee in Havana] I represent Iberia Airlines and I have been trying to help these comrades. In fact, the Cuban authorities have given their greatest effort. Our presence has merely been to support them. They [crews] are very happy with the treatment they received. I would like to give my thanks on behalf of these comrades. This demonstrates the great image Cuba has abroad.

[Female crewmember] I am very well. I want to give my thanks. The authorities have treated us excellently. We are very grateful, all the crews both Avensa and Aeropostal. We are very happy. The truth is we have been given special treatment. We are very happy to be here.

CSO: 3010/460

BRIEFS

ALLENDE'S WIDOW AT FILM FESTIVAL--Armando Hart, member of the Politburo and minister of culture, last night attended the Cuban Cinemateca in Havana, which is hosting the third national festival of the new Latin American theater, and at which various documentaries were shown. Also attending with Hart were [word indistinct] Alfredo Guevara, vice minister of culture and chairman of the event and Hostensia Allende, widow of deceased Chilean President Salvador Allende, who arrived in Havana yesterday. Of the 160 films being shown, there are 40 science fiction, 15 animated and various documentaries. [Text] [FL091253 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Dec 81]

NEW BULK FREIGHTER--The Pinar del Rio, a new freighter specialized in carrying grains, has arrived in Cuba from Romania, where it was built. This vessel, which will join a fleet operating in the Empresa de Navegacion Caribe, has a capacity of 3,357 cubic meters, 2,400 deadweight tons and an overall length of 88.6 meters. With the arrival of this new bulk freighter, the specialized flotilla of the Empresa de Navegacion Caribe now has five vessels and one lighter. The Ceinfuegos, a sister ship, and three others under construction in Romania, will arrive soon. They are part of the plans to enlarge our merchant marine. [Text] [FL082151 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 81]

BUSES FROM HUNGARY--Beginning in February, a consignment of 585 buses and (?cars) will begin to arrive as part of an agreement signed in Hungary's capital, Budapest. The document, worked out in the inter-governmental agreements last September was signed yesterday by Cuban and Hungarian representatives. [Text] [FL081500 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1421 GMT 8 Dec 81]

CSO: 3010/460

BRIEFS

BISHOP RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV--Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev has said that the Soviet people are in full solidarity with the Grenadian people and government in their struggle for the strengthening of their sovereignty and for Grenada's social and economic progress. President Brezhnev's remarks were contained in a response to the message sent by Prime Minister Bishop to the Soviet leader on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. President Brezhnev said his country and people share the desire of the government and people of Grenada for the further development and strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Grenada. [Text] [FLO42339 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 4 Dec 81]

CSO: 3025/1010

BRIEFS

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TRINIDAD--Kingston, Jamaica, 7 Dec (CANA)--The head of the Foreign Trade Division in Jamaica's Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ellen Bogle, is to be the island's new high commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, according to an official announcement. Mr Bogle is replacing Gordon Wells, who is now permanent secretary in the Public Service Ministry, the Foreign Ministry said. [Text] [FL072319 Bridgetown CANA in English 2105 GMT 7 Dec 81]

CSO: 3025/1010

POSSIBLE U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION CRITICIZED

PA070033 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Nov 81 p 3

[Article by Carlos Fernando Chamorro: "Reagan and Military Intervention"]

[Text] Ever since Alexander Haig publicly admitted that discussions were underway regarding the "final decision" to be taken on Nicaragua and that the State Department had presented to President Reagan a number of military options for attacking Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador, those who devise U.S. foreign policy have entered a period of "defining" the alternatives, followed by two basic initiatives for implementing those alternatives.

These are: A diplomatic sounding out of Mexico and Venezuela at the highest levels to learn their reaction to possible U.S. actions, and the decision to convert the small base at Key West into an operational forces military command that is capable of bringing together all the naval, air and land forces that the United States has stationed in the Caribbean to take action at any time.

Previously, Reagan himself had sought to tone down Haig's warmongering rhetoric in order to reduce international scandal, by saying that he did not "intend to send combat troops to any part of the world." However, if anyone naively misinterpreted Reagan's words, seeing in them an "encouraging" sign, his own advisers Haig, Meese and Weinberger took care to thoroughly clarify the president's meaning.

Obviously, within the possible modes of military intervention, the United States is not thinking, in the first instance, of that which would involve the greatest political, material and human costs; that is, the deployment of marines to fight in Cuba and Nicaragua. Consequently, emphasis is placed on the possibilities of a naval blockade, on the use of nonland forces (bombings from the air and naval attacks) and on a joint action with the various Latin American armies, which would require justification that so far has been difficult to come by.

Proof of this is that, at the moment of "sounding" out Venezuela, Washington came up against Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins' firm opposition to any military intervention in the area and his demand that "Central America and the Caribbean be declared a zone of peace." With Mexico, the United States came out even worse because President Lopez Portillo not only described any U.S. intervention as "a great historical error," but also, calling a spade a spade, asked Haig to tone down his attacks on Nicaragua because of the way these attacks have worsened tension in the area.

In like fashion, Brazil, another significant force on the subcontinent, whose opposition to an intervention in Cuba and Central America is well known, robbed the United States of its alleged justification for an intervention by the Brazilian foreign minister's statement that Nicaragua, as a sovereign country, has the right to purchase weapons for the country's defense from whatever country it deems convenient. In other words, the famous pretext of the "militarization" of Nicaragua and the propaganda charges that we are not amenable to dialogue and that we are a "threat to the region" lose credibility daily, while it becomes clearly obvious that Reagan has a warlike attitude that can no longer be justified with the old song about the danger of "communist aggression against the hemisphere" or of Nicaraguan "totalitarianism."

This is, briefly, the negative balance of Washington's diplomatic initiatives, to which is added the rejection of other Latin American countries such as Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, the Socialist International, the European governments and the socialist countries that agree in their disapproval of intervention.

The question to be asked then is: To what extent will rejection of Reagan's warlike policy worldwide and in the United States itself affect or modify the alternatives that are currently being discussed within his administration?

Phrased in another way: What would be the probable course of unilateral actions that the United States would contemplate if other options are closed to it and to what point would it be prepared to go, considering the high political cost that this implies?

The question is difficult to answer because it involves a number of factors that are determined by more than just the military course of the Salvadoran revolution and the obvious failure of the option of "elections" that are scheduled to take place soon in that country. In addition, it would be necessary to consider the United States' overall perception of its foreign policy and what it perceives to be the possible effect on the rest of the world if the actions that it takes or fails to take in its immediate theater of action, which is the Caribbean.

In regards to this last matter, we remember the "advice" given by Henry Kissinger in Chile on last Tuesday when he said that "if the United States permits this (the revolution in Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador) it would again demonstrate U.S. impotence and that its foreign policy would inspire little confidence." Everyone knows that the more reactionary sectors of the Reagan administration, the "new right" of the "ideologists" as they are called, give a high priority to the need of making a demonstration of force in Central America, whose political cost they consider relatively small, in order to cure the U.S. people of the Vietnam trauma and to show that military power is not only feasible, in crushing revolutions, but that it is also effective in recovering the empire's "credibility" in the world, without necessarily having a "Vietnam" type conclusion. This obviously refers to a limited military aggression, (aerial bombing and naval attacks) rapid actions that would not lead to a permanent commitment of U.S. troops abroad, but would definitively try to restore credibility in unilateral action by the U.S. military.

Within this framework, the creation of the Key West military command acquires greater importance. It not only has been given an "operational" importance, since it could coordinate the actions of 9,400 marines stationed in Panama, the 3,600 in Puerto Rico and the 41 naval vessels of the Caribbean fleet, and the air force, but it

was also publicized that "the Vietnam lesson has taught us that the people must understand well the reasons for all U.S. interventions," a U.S. official said.

Also, from an administration that reminds us daily that, "No option can be discarded," it is logical to expect, after the failure of its diplomatic efforts, that it could make a desperate attempt to seek solutions by force in order to halt the revolutionary struggle in the region.

However this possibility is complicated for the United States for two reasons: First, because it is a military intervention and regardless of its shape, it will never bring a lasting solution to the structural crisis and problems existing in the region, and second because it would be met with the well-known fighting determination of the peoples of Nicaragua, Cuba and El Salvador as well as by all the democratic and revolutionary forces in the world.

The United States not only lacks feasible alternatives for solving the region's problems, but it also intends to close the doors to the search for a *modus vivendi*, as proposed by Nicaragua, based on the recognition of our revolution, as a historical fact, and respect for our self-determination.

The seriousness of the situation, however, will not keep us from doing everything possible to seek a dialogue with the United States and to preserve peace, but as Commander Daniel Ortega said at the United Nations, "If they make war on us, we will resist with a people's war."

CSO: 3010/454

OPPOSITION LEADERS DISCUSS POLITICAL PARTIES BILL

PCD Official's Comments

PA070424 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Interview with Donald Lacayo Nunez, secretary of legal affairs of the Democratic Conservative Party, by Clemente Guido during the party's weekly program "Conservatism on the Move"--presumably live]

[Excerpts] [Guido] Good morning, conservatives and people of Nicaragua. Once again our national coordinator, Jose Castillo Osejo, is traveling abroad. He is currently in Venezuela responding to an invitation from the democratic political parties of that country to exchange viewpoints on the current situation of Nicaragua and on the functioning of political parties here. Therefore, since our coordinator--also creator and host of this program--is not in the country, I have been selected once again to come here to interview today's guest, who is Donald Lacayo Nunez, PCD secretary of legal affairs and one of the strongest middle-aged bulwarks--he is neither too young nor too old--of the PCD.

Good morning, Donald. We would like to ask you several questions regarding this week's national and international events. Two important events were in the forefront this week: the elections held in Honduras on Sunday and the ordinary meeting of the OAS which is currently underway--or which we could say was held last week because it is scheduled to close today--in St Lucia. My first question is: What is your opinion of the OAS meeting in St Lucia and what positive or negative results could it bring for the democratization of Nicaragua?

[Answer] Regarding the OAS' ordinary meeting that is underway or was held in St Lucia, the Nicaraguan people should bear in mind that this is a regular, not a special meeting. They should also recall that the 17th consultative meeting of OAS foreign ministers that was held on 23 June 1979--which demanded that Dictator Somoza should leave power--has not been closed, as we all know. Therefore, we believe that this regular meeting in St Lucia could take the first steps for the reopening of the 17th consultative meeting of the OAS foreign ministers so that they might study, analyze and evaluate the development and status of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process and determine if there has been compliance or noncompliance with the five famous resolutions that were approved at that 17th consultative meeting.

In truth, more than anything else this meeting at St Lucia has been the annual regular exchange of impressions by the foreign ministers of Latin America. It has come at a very difficult time, a time of unforeseen consequences because of the attitude which the Nicaraguan Government and some Sandinist leaders here have taken regarding U.S. policy on Nicaragua, which has naturally provoked a similar reaction from the United States.

We believe that this meeting could have beneficial results for Nicaragua. It already has. For example, Foreign Minister D'escoto's meeting with Alexander Haig, which we could say was sought by the leaders and the Foreign Ministry of this country. But the last word still has not been said regarding this, the OAS meeting. We believe that it could take the first steps for the reopening of the 17th OAS consultative meeting which in truth is what is needed to analyze and evaluate the case of Nicaragua.

Also, we should not lose sight of the elections in Honduras. These elections have led us to wonder if the Hondurans can resolve their problems through votes instead of bullets, since our capitals are separated by less than 500 km, why can't we also resolve our country's problems through votes like they did in Honduras? Let us hope that this example and that of Costa Rica, and those of El Salvador and Guatemala, where elections are in the offing, will help our rulers realize that the way to carry the revolutionary process forward in Nicaragua, the way to carry forward this process' conquests and achievements and advances, is through the popular, direct and secret vote; through the people's will expressed without coercion, fear or threats--through an electoral process.

Naturally, for us to be able to hold elections we must first have the much touted and demanded political parties law. The PCD has been demanding this law for more than 20 months, when it first presented a draft bill to the State Council. Today, since the Sandinists are tangled up with the gringos and in the affairs of Latin and Central America, and since they have not been able to spur the revolutionary process on into a normal takeoff, they have proposed a political parties law. They very intelligently timed it for it to coincide with the OAS' regular meeting in St Lucia to try to show that in this country there is pluralism, democracy and free political activity including all the national sectors. In truth, as we all know, if the Sandinists were indeed determined to approve such a political parties law, they would not be setting up these bothersome and time consuming formalities, and we would all be sitting down to talk at a large negotiating table to approve a law that the Nicaraguan people are interested in and [word indistinct].

But what really happened in fact? The Sandinists delayed this law. They introduced it two or three sessions before the second legislative period of the State Council was scheduled to end. Today the law has been relegated to another occasion and they tried to make it seem as if in this country we were understanding each other, as if the Democrats and Sandinists were reaching an agreement. Obviously, this is what we all desire, but let us not try to do it with tricks and deceit; let us not try to do it with subterfuges because we all know what we want and where we are going.

In any event, as of today I would term the political parties law as a clumsy law, as a deceitful law. It is a law that has not been consistent enough; a law that

has not been widely accepted because a large portion of it is punitive; it is a law with so many penal articles that what it has really done is to scare the people instead of earning the necessary confidence for the institutionalization of democracy or to make us believe that we are building a democratic regime with the use of the legal instruments that would make this process viable.

Hopefully they will rectify their error and will convoke special sessions and implement this law, and will stop harassing the political parties like they did recently in [word indistinct] where they sent out the army, the militias, the unruly crowds and all the mass organizations against us.

[Question] You have just said something, Dr Lacayo, that has caught my attention because I have talked to other political leaders about this subject and they have looked at it from another viewpoint. They feel that the introduction or presentation of this bill on a political parties law by the FSLN at the State Council is a sort of smokescreen motivated by the St Lucia meeting and is meant to portray an image of political pluralism abroad.

As a matter of fact I was talking to another political leader, who is not from our party, on the subject and he mentioned that the Sandinists do not really need to have the so-called democratic parties participate in the State Council to project an image of political pluralism abroad. His reasoning was: There are eight political parties here, including the FSLN. Of these, five are in the State Council and three are not: the PCD, the Social Christian Party, and the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN. The other two parties in the country, the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party, are on the State Council: the FSLN, the Popular Social Christian Party, the Independent Liberal Party, the Socialist Party and, I believe, another faction of the Socialists.

Summing up, this political leader says that all the FSLN has to do is present these five parties, which hold a majority on the State Council. It does not need the participation of the other 3 parties to project an image of political pluralism abroad. If someone were to ask them why the other three parties are not participating, all they would have to do is say: Because they don't want to and, after all, most of the parties are on the council. What do you think about this?

[Answer] The truth is that political pluralism in Nicaragua is not going to hinge on who is and who is not a member of the State Council. The Nicaraguan, the democratic concept of pluralism is much broader. If we belong to a State Council we should be able to [words indistinct] at the State Council; we should be able to go to the State Council to talk and to make our contribution. The facts behind the worsening of the crisis in this country basically are not due to whether or not we belong to the State Council. Logically, this has helped to create difficult and problematic situations for the Sandinists, but the extent of this grave problem in Nicaragua is much broader and encompasses a whole lot more.

To be precise, it is all of the national and international commitments which the FSLN promised to fulfill while it was still underground and before it was in power; while it was in Costa Rica, where the government platform was prepared and everyone accepted it. What has happened? The political platform is not being followed, the basic status are ignored, the [words indistinct] guarantees are not being

fulfilled, as well as all the other international documents that we do not want to enumerate here because it would take a long time and because the Nicaraguan people already know which ones they are because we have named them before on previous programs.

Therefore the problem of pluralism and democracy in Nicaragua cannot be seen as an isolated problem that has to deal exclusively with the State Council. We could go and sit on the State Council tomorrow. The problem is much larger. In this country we have to gain the trust of the people, we have to earn credibility. We have to give the people laws and get rid of a number of obstacles that are being set up. We have to get rid of the Sandinist Defense Committees, CDS, once more, as they have started to operate them again, to promote them again.

Therefore, how can we normalize the situation in this country when we have limitations and restrictions, on the one hand, and situations that lead us to believe that we are not building a democratic regime in Nicaragua, on the other.

Then, within this context, within this wide sphere of things that I have mentioned, it is not a matter of whether we participate in the State Council that hardly matters any more. In Nicaragua we are running out of a number of options and the FSLN knows it. Consequently, what they should do is open the doors to democracy so that later on we won't have to complain about any situation that might continue to provoke divisions and crises in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process.

MDN's Alvaro Jerez

PA051436 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Orion Elpidio Pastora report]

[Text] Prominent Nicaraguan Democratic Movement member Dr Alvaro Jerez, last night commented on the appointment of democratic coordinating board observers of the special committee that is preparing a report on the bill on Nicaraguan political parties. During the interview, Dr Jerez stressed that it is important that this new political development does not constitute a dirty trick. Should this be true, it would be deplorable for Nicaragua's democratic future.

The following are Dr Jerez' statements for this newscast on the committee currently studying the bill on political parties and on the presence of democratic coordinating board and independent democratic parties delegates in it:

[Begin recording] The democratic coordinating board sent a letter to [State Council president] Commander Carlos Nunez requesting, as a coordinating body, that two or more of its members be admitted to the special committee meetings.

This means that regardless of the answer given to the coordinating board, the political parties' representatives to the State Council will have both debating and voting rights in the committee.

Today we received a note from Commander Nunez, indicating that they would accept two coordinating board observers in the committee with debating rights but without

voting rights. This, however, does not eliminate the right of those participating in the State Council sessions to join the debates conducted by the committee preparing the report on the law on political parties. This is important for a basic reason: The law on political parties, must be discussed, analyzed and drafted by the political parties. So, despite its good intentions, this committee should include representatives of the political organizations represented in the State Council so that consensus can be reached by everyone concerned.

[Question] Dr Jerez, you have talked both officially and unofficially with Commander Carlos Nunez. We would like to know if during those talks, Commander Nunez has hinted at the possibility that this law on political parties, which has created such a stir among the democratic sectors, might be approved soon either by the State Council or by the government junta, which is this country's legislative branch?

[Answer] First of all, one of the things we fear is that, due to the delay with which this law was submitted to the State Council, it may have to be passed on to some other legislative period. This could happen unless special sessions are convoked before 24 December to finish approving that law. Furthermore, one of the risks that we might be running is if this law is passed on to the government junta and it is issued as an executive decree, there would be no chance for appeals and the political parties would not have the right to dissent or at least discuss the various articles.

Now, if the Sandinist Front is playing a game for the purpose of exporting it, it seems to me that this would be a conceptual and tactical mistake at this point. Nicaragua has serious domestic and foreign problems. There are serious economic, political and social problems. It seems that the Sandinist Front would be acting irresponsibly if it were sponsoring these tactical games only as a means of diverting the political parties' attention or to make the international public believe they are trying to lay the groundwork for democracy in Nicaragua. As I have always said, now is a time for the fatherland, not the party or ideology. It seems to me that this must be a serious and honest effort by the government party's forces to lay the groundwork for democracy, a true democracy, which all Nicaraguan people need. This is the only way--listen to me carefully--this is the only way we can stop the aggressive wave that many sectors around our country are developing. Otherwise, this country will be headed for chaos and we do not want that. We are committing all our political will and all our efforts in order to take them at their word. According to them, they are revolutionaries and a revolutionary like Commander Borge never lies. Well, we take their word that this is no game. History will prove who is deceiving who.

[Question] Dr Jerez, there are two basic problems. On the one hand, we have the law on political parties, the presence of politicians in the State Council, the expectations created around this law, which will possibly be approved, and on the other hand, we have the prisoners of both the Higher Council of Private Enterprises, COSEP, and the Labor Action and Unity Federation, CAUS. We would like to know if the political parties' presence in the State Council will somehow improve the condition of those in jail, who are members of the democratic coordinating board, in this case, members of COSEP. Also will the CAUS prisoners' situation improve?

[Answer] We have never thought that freedom could be negotiated or for that matter are we going to be blackmailed. If they view our joining the State Council as a means to improving a situation which we view as a right of those currently detained, I think they are mistaken. We will not be blackmailed [words indistinct] effort, political will of the patriotic democratic organizations, which view this gesture as a means to make the Sandinist Front realize once and for all that it cannot continue playing with the country's future. So, if they created an opening by suggesting an initiative through a law on political parties as a first step, we respond to that by showing up at the State Council. Not in order to participate in a fictitious situation, but in order to see concrete facts materialize. As I said earlier, our attitude is merely patriotic. Our attitude is that of honest and upright organizations. We are not going to the State Council to get privileges or to project a revolutionary image in the Sandinist Front way. No, we are showing up at the State Council in order to give our process a big chance to reach a national agreement that may prevent a bigger disaster in future months. [End recording]

CSO: 3010/453

SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY CHOOSES NEW LEADERS

PA011330 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] The last session of the ninth congress of the Social Christian Party, PSC, ended yesterday in Managua. Its main objectives was the appointment of the party's new leaders. Adan Fletes was reelected as party president. Foreign representatives of Social Christian parties participated in this last session, enjoying the full freedom guaranteed by the Sandinist people revolution in the new Nicaragua.

Guillermo Yepes Boscan, former Venezuelan ambassador to Nicaragua; Eduardo Fernandez, Venezuelan Social Christian Party secretary general; and representatives of the Social Christian parties of Panama and El Salvador were among the honored guests at the congress. Also present were representatives of so-called dissident groups. Many children were also among the 250 persons attending the closing sessions; they were probably accompanying their parents.

PSC President Fletes summed up the activities carried out by the parties in the past months. He specifically referred to the support of and solidarity with the Catholic Church, with Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo; he congratulated Monsignor (Bosco Vivas).

Fletes explained his party's position on the country's political situation and outlined his new administration's plan which include the party's reintegration in the State Council. The PSC session was full of enthusiasm for the election of the new president. It also praised Napoleon Duarte, president of the Salvadoran military-Christian Democratic Government Junta. Almost at the end of the session, a telegram from Bayardo Arce, FSLN political commission coordinator, was read. Arce congratulated Fletes and Agustin Jarquin for their appointment to the PSC's highest posts and urged them to participate more actively in the tasks of the revolutionary process.

CSO: 3010/453

ARTICLE ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN ARREST OF COMMUNISTS

PA020131 Managua EL NEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Nov 81 p 2

[Article by Julian Grajales Duval: "Of 'Journeyman' Communism"]

[Excerpts] Sandinist juridical authorities have sentenced alleged "communist" activists and leaders while others are on trial, are imprisoned or are fugitives. The reasons which motivated the trials are well known to all, since they were given wide coverage in the country's mass media.

Those accused by the revolutionary justice have been active mainly among urban proletariat sectors and in some suburban areas. Their political and labor "counseling and guidance" activities have certainly been framed within Marxist-Leninist philosophic concepts, but interpreted in their own way and adapted to the Nicaraguan reality in accordance with their own narrow, sectarian, strange and opportunistic criteria. Revolutionary theory and practice have been implemented with old-fashioned and dogmatic methods at the journeyman level, outside all current objective reality and its continuity, that is, in a deformed and aberrant manner which has damaged, instead of helping, the propaganda and real image of the Marxist-Leninist ideological concept, of what socialism and communism really are.

Events have shown that it was necessary to creatively develop and adapt Marxism-Leninism to the realities of each of the Latin American peoples; to be aware of the contents of the social structure and productive development; to objectively know its social strata and to scientifically, with communist honesty, recognize the role and importance of each one of them; to highlight the most revolutionary sector at a turning point or at the revolutionary moment; to support and give it prominence; and to not stubbornly and with misbegotten subjectivity, attempt to skip stages in the natural development.

High-Voltage Opportunists

The "communists" in question, the local breed, aren't completely guilty. Yet we must not forgive them. They are the "children" of a "school" of old and young high-voltage opportunists, of scroungers, of traffickers and adventurers dealing in the fairness and purity of Marxism-Leninism, in the prestige of the socialist, communist and workers' parties and of the national liberation movements; in the memory of millions of brothers who have enriched the peoples' struggles with their own lives.

It must be said that some opportunists of that "school" of pseudo "communists" survive embedded in revolutionary parties and organizations, dressed in Sandinist clothes, thanks to the mimicry of that parasite species and to the youth of the Sandinist people's revolution. I sincerely believe that in Nicaragua there are authentic socialists, communists, Marxists-Leninist, but that they have been sidelined from all revolutionary activity by the scroungers, by the opportunists of old and those of today.

The Vicissitudes of Marxism

It is true that the natural ideology of the proletariat has encountered many changes in Nicaragua. It has subsisted in the midst of that struggle, but that is no reason to think that ideology has no room in our homeland. On the contrary, it must be understood that the earthly character of Marxist-Leninist theories, the objective laws ruling social development and the objectivity that the Sandinist popular revolution, with the FSLN at the forefront--which is democratic, pluralist and leans toward socialism--is evident in every change, act and achievement of the Nicaraguan people. And that even though Marxism-Leninism are not its basic ideologies, the revolution is neither an enemy of the ideology, nor of the system, nor of those espousing that philosophy. Yet the most important thing is its irreversible trait: anti-imperialism. This is the essential and universal characteristic tying it to the free peoples of the world.

In conclusion, Sandinism is not basically Marxism-Leninism and neither is the latter basically the former. Thus, the fact that the Sandinist revolution has imprisoned, persecuted and tried a group of declassed impostors who toyed with the title of "communists" must not be interpreted as an anticommunist manifestation, nor as a concession to imperialism. There is a possibility that without doing away with past experience, the authentic party of the Marxists-Leninists may be formed in the future. The future of Nicaragua is socialism based on the ideology of the proletariat, without eclecticism or parallelisms, the unique, scientific socialism of Marx, Engels, Lenin and of the modern revolutionaries and democrats.

CSO: 3010/453

PPSC PRESIDENT DISCUSSES MEETING OF REFLECTION

PA261619 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Nov 81

[Text] The agenda to be discussed at the meeting of reflection and coexistence that supposedly is to begin on Monday, 30 November, has already been approved. This was announced by Edgard Macias, president of the People Social Christian Party [PPSC]. He said that the subjects have been divided into three areas: political, economic and social. There are plans to discuss the next elections, freedom for political parties, pluralism and private enterprise. Here is Macias' statement:

[Begin recording] During Tuesday night's meeting work was done on the meeting's agenda and on a list of special guests. The adopted agenda includes three working areas: political, economic and social.

The political area includes three subjects: national unity, the management of international relations and the consolidation and defense of the revolutionary process. The subject of national unity will include at least four subtopics: political pluralism, political parties, elections and the political language. The subject of international relations will involve Nicaragua's relations with the United States, with the socialist countries, with the Andean Pact countries, with the EEC and with international political organizations like the Social Democratic International, the Liberal International and the Christian Democratic International. The third subject of consolidation and defense of the revolutionary process will include an analysis of our country's current problems and of the best way to work for the consolidation and defense of the revolutionary process.

The economic area includes the subtopic of economic planning. This involves analysis of agrarian reform, of foreign and domestic trade and of the sectors involved in the Nicaraguan economy. The latter includes an analysis of the state sector, or the people's property area. There will also be an analysis of the private sector and its problems and an analysis of the mixed sector of our economy. This includes all of the problems in production and productivity, the administration of enterprises and labor discipline. These are subjects that are quite interrelated.

The social area includes three subtopics. One is trade union unity, which includes union freedom, workers federations, labor legislation, workers' participation and aspects dealing with self-management and co-management projects in Nicaragua, intended to strengthen the revolution and to combat unemployment. The second subtopic involves the communications media, both state-owned and privately owned,

and the use that they are being given; an analysis of press freedom; and the communications media law. The third subtopic in the social area is an analysis of the problems of health, education and housing.

Tuesday's meeting also included work on a list of special guests for the inauguration. These include leaders of political parties and other organizations; the bishops of the Episcopal conference; the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; leaders of the private sector; some ambassadors who have shown, let us say, greater interest in Nicaragua's problems, such as the ambassadors of Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, the FRG, the GDR, Bulgaria, Sweden, the Netherlands and other countries; Protestant church leaders; newsmen; and a number of special personal guests previously decided upon.

There are the subjects that were discussed at Tuesday night's meeting. [End recording]

CSO: 3010/453

PST URGES PEOPLE TO ATTEND ANTI-U.S. MARCH

PA230212 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Nov 81 p 2A

[Communique issued by the Workers Socialist Party of Panama; date and place not given--slantlines denote boldface as published]

[Text] For the past several months the Panamanian workers and people have been shouldering the heavy burden of constant price increases, unemployment (we poor people know how many unemployed there really are), violations of labor laws and of the constitution (Law 8, for example), and the pressuring and persecution of labor unions. All this is being done by common agreement between management and the government.

Not content with the constant increases in the prices of staples, they are now threatening to raise busfares. As further proof of violations by management, we understand that more than 240 Air Panama employees are striking over management's violations, the group's labor contract and management's persecution of the labor union. In the construction industry, the workers and Eduardo Rios, leader of the single national union of construction and related workers, are struggling to get the Panamanian construction chamber to pay them the 15-cent pay raise decreed by Law 13, and to stop persecuting and slandering union leaders. For the past 8 months, Isidoro Asprilla Marmolejo, secretary general of the Air Panama employees union, has been persecuted and threatened with dismissal by the manager of the enterprise, Tomas Paredes Royo (the president's nephew). Nine workers are struggling with the Coripsa construction company for their reinstatement and against the arbitrary acts of the Valencia family. The imperialist multimillion dollar Chiriqui land company has fired 400 workers and has threatened to fire 800 more. In the Frenos y Embragues company the workers have declared a strike in view of management's refusal to discuss a fair labor contract.

However, these are not the only problems which our people face.

Today our country runs the risk of becoming a military target, because our territory is being used as a launching site to invade--from the 14 bases legalized by Carter-Torrijos treaties--our sister countries in Central America and the Caribbean (El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Cuba) which are struggling for a definitive solution to the social, economic and political problems of the poor masses.

Therefore, aware of the Panamanian people's tradition of anti-imperialist struggle, the defense of sovereignty and the struggle by the martyrs against U.S. military

bases, the Workers Socialist Party (PST) calls on all the political parties (without exception), and all those who fight against imperialism, to condemn the threats of aggression and invasion that U.S. imperialism is making against the people of Central America and the Caribbean, including Panama.

Also, whereas Lt Cols [as published] Florencio Flores and Manuel Antonia Noriega have publicly stated their participation in so-called conference of the armies of the Americas which was convoked by imperialism, we call on the people of Panama to demand that the government and the national guard not commit our country in the imperialist aggressions and maneuvers in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Cuba.

We are aware that those who sided with the Zonians in 1964 and today praise U.S. Ambassador Ambler Moss, raise prices, violate group labor contracts and trample the workers' rights will not condemn the imperialist threats of aggression and invasion of our country and sister republics.

The PST calls on the Panamanian people in general, the labor unions, federations and confederation, students, teachers, housewives, the poor peasants and all the popular organizations to /unite, struggle and participate in the March on Thursday, 26 November/ (at 5 o'clock from Plaza Porras to Santa Ana Park), /against the increase in busfares, in support of the workers and labor unions against U.S. imperialism's aggressions against our sovereignty and the sovereignty of the peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala./

CSO: 3010/455

NEW WAGE SCALE FOR CANAL COMMISSION DRAWS PROTESTS

Acting Minister's Statement

PA091822 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Jose Maria Cabrera, deputy foreign minister who is acting as foreign minister, said yesterday that the new wage scale that the United States will put into effect for the Canal Commission "undoubtedly constitutes a violation of the canal treaties."

Cabrera said that the dual wage system which is being retained by the Panama Canal Commission is "discriminatory" and has become "a step backward toward a situation that Panama thought had been resolved."

The deputy minister of foreign relations spoke to LA PRENSA hours after Ricardo Alonso Rodriguez, spokesman for the Panamanian members of the Canal Commission board of directors, denounced the situation to the national and international press.

Cabrera said that the Foreign Ministry is working in coordination with the Panamanian members of the binational committee set up by the United States to regulate and analyze the implementation of the 1977 treaties.

"If required, the Foreign Ministry will take the appropriate actions," the deputy foreign minister said in a cautious reply to LA PRENSA's question regarding the possibility that Panama might protest through diplomatic channels.

At the last meeting of the board of directors of the Panama Canal Commission, the U.S. members voted as a bloc and approved, five to four, the new wage scale that will shortly replace the current U.S. wage regulation that are followed by the Panama Canal Commission.

Both the 1979 document and the present one, were opposed by the Panamanian government.

Citing reports from Washington where the meeting was held, the presidency of the republic said that the United States approved a document that does not solve the labor discrimination existing in the Canal area. The presidency also expressed its reservations and its fear of a possible destabilization of the labor situation within the Canal area.

Union Rejects Scale

PA091949 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2245 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Interview with Miguel Machado, deputy secretary general of Local 900; place and date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Members of Local 900 and other unions in addition to Local 907 [as heard] met this afternoon to discuss the statement by William Gianelli. What can you tell us about this, Mr Machado?

[Answer] First of all, let me tell you that in our opinion the statement by Gianelli represents another U.S. Government mockery of the Panamanian workers who began to work for U.S. agencies after 1 October 1979.

The new wage scale, which will supposedly replace what is known as Panama area wage base, is nothing more than a farce. It really is not in line with the needs of the vast majority of the Panamanian workers who began to work after the treaties were implemented.

[Question] What agreement did you reach at the union meeting?

[Answer] As on previous occasions at these meetings called by U.S. agencies, they inform us of their decisions. As on previous occasions, the decision was again unilateral. The Panamanian Government neither participated in it nor supported it. It was not a move in favor of the Panamanian people.

[Question] Why was the decision against the people?

[Answer] Because they tried to get rid of the Panama area wage base, which has caused so much anguish to so many Panamanian families of the workers that were hired after 1 October. The grades in which most of these workers are have not changed at all. In manual grades 1 to 7, they will remain in what is the Panama area wage base. In nonmanual grades 1 to 4, they will also remain in the Panama area wage base. This is where the majority of the Panamanian workers who began to work after 1 October 1979 are located.

By maintaining this large group of workers in what used to be and is the Panama area wage base, with certain modifications which do not really contain any real increase, they really have done nothing.

[Question] Would this mean the workers would retain their same status?

[Answer] Yes. They would retain their same status. No name has been assigned to this new wage scale, but the grades I have just mentioned are going to remain in what is now the Panama area wage base. Some modifications have been made in the pay system. We had a chance to examine them this afternoon. One of the increases which can be granted to the employees in this group is less than 1 cent per hour when going from one step to another. We consider this extremely ridiculous.

'LA REPUBLICA' Editorial

PA072343 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 6 Dec 81 p 4-4

[Editorial: "The Crux of the Problem"]

[Text] A communique has been issued by the Panama Canal Commission announcing what is described as "a new wage system for the Panama Canal."

At first glance it would seem that one of the most sensitive aspects of relations between Panama and the United States, one of the most important areas of conflict in the interpretation of the Panama Canal treaty, had been corrected.

However, when this communique is carefully analyzed one can see that it includes, or better said retains, the main problem. The communique states:

"The commission will grant important benefits to those employees whose salary is paid according to the Panama area wage base."

Therefore, the double-standard wage system remains. There is one wage system for U.S. employees working for the Panama Canal Commission as well as for U.S. employees working on the U.S. military bases in Panama, while another wage scale exists for Panamanians and third-nationals employed by the commission and on the military bases.

Therefore, the "silver roll" and the "gold roll," the hated wage system established by the United States during colonial times by means of a unilateral interpretation of the 1903 treaty, still exists.

Before writing this editorial we talked with people who are completely knowledgeable about this problem. They told us that this is an attempt, because of the charges made by the Panamanian Government, to give the impression that violations of the Canal treaty are being corrected. Actually, everything that has been done merely seeks to "make less onerous the humiliation to which the Panamanian dignity has been subjected," as one of those consulted has said.

Article X of the Panama Canal treaty dealing with Panama Canal Commission employees clearly states the rights of the Panamanian workers in the areas of employment, wages, stability, promotion, social security, unions, preference to be given to the Panamanians in filling vacancies left by U.S. citizens, the thirteenth-month payment and all the labor guarantees mentioned in the Panamanian labor code.

However, all these rights have been voided in practice because the United States, through Law 96-70, has established discriminatory working conditions of which the "Panama area wage base" is the cruelest. It deprives the Panamanian worker of the right to equal pay for equal work.

The charges made by the Panamanian Government stem from this. These charges are answered with a measure that is not acceptable, because while it is true that it provides for some wage increases, these increases will never equal the salaries paid to the U.S. citizens. The double-standard wage scale has been, is and will continue to be the crux of the wage problem in the Panama Canal area.

Minister Rodriguez' Press Conference

PA081927 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2245 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The adjustments made to the wage scale in effect in the Canal area are discriminatory, it was charged today at a news conference by Panamanian members of the Canal Commission board of directors.

The adjustments made to the Canal area wage scale imply improvements for one sector, but discriminate against another large sector, which includes the Panamanians. This causes a drop in the morale of the workers, said Minister of the Presidency Ricardo Alonso Rodriguez in a news conference today.

In addition, Rodriguez said losses to the Canal Commission for fiscal year 1980-81 are estimated at 600,000 balboas. Rodriguez pointed out that these losses are due to increased labor costs for pilots, increased operation expenses and inflation.

In addition, the minister explained that the commission had made investment expenditures on the basis of a planned income of 307 million balboas. In reality income only amounted to 303 million balboas.

Rodriguez, who is a member of the board of directors of the Canal Commission, was accompanied by Tomas Paredes, also a Panamanian member of the commission.

Both said that to the commission's expenditures the United States adds costs that are not part of the operation of the Canal, thus aggravating the loss situation. These additional expenses correspond, among others, to the education services supplied by the armed forces to the U.S. community, amortization of early retirement for services rendered to the defunct Panama Canal Company and interest paid to the U.S. Treasury unrecovered investment in the Canal.

These services represent close to 75 million balboas absorbed by the commission.

In the face of this situation, Panama proposes a reorganization of the administration, the creation of a planning office, minimizing costs and amortizing investments over the long term.

In addition, Rodriguez pointed out that this year, a total of 12 million had been spent to indemnify transit accidents in the Canal as compared to 6 million in the previous fiscal year.

The Canal Commission currently has 7,951 employees and a current overall budget of \$430 million.

The Panamanian members of the Canal Commission board of directors also pointed to the need for short-range studies regarding the possible widening of the entrances to the Canal and Culebra Cut, thus preventing a jam in 1990 which would hinder normal operation. This widening would cost \$500 million, the cost of which must be assumed by the United States. The project would have to be started as soon as possible since it would take 10 to 12 years to complete, Minister Rodriguez explained.

To the moment, the United States has recognized its responsibility in the execution of these works, the minister pointed out.

In conclusion, Rodriguez said that Panama will continue to denounce the violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties as long as necessary to guarantee the interests of our country.

CSO: 3010/451

NEGOTIATOR GUEVARA REFERS TO TREATIES VIOLATIONS

PA042136 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] In view of the situation posed by the noncompliance of the Canal treaties, negotiator Carlos Lopez Guevara demanded that the issue be submitted to international arbitration in order to settle the differences between unilateral interpretations. Here is Lopez Guevara's statement to this station:

[Begin recording] [Question] Dr Lopez Guevara, since the treaties have been in effect for 2 years, what is your opinion on the progress in their implementation?

[Answer] Unfortunately we must say the treaties are not being complied with as agreed. We must protest and use the diplomatic channels. In fact, it is time for the Panamanian Government to present to Washington the need to submit the matter for arbitration.

Arbitration is included as one of the possibilities--I want to be very clear in this, however, as there is no obligation on the part of the United States to accept arbitration since this recourse is included in the agreements only as a possibility in the event of discrepancies. It is obvious, however, that such discrepancies exist, as I pointed out when I was the ambassador to the United States, and as President Royo pointed out in his communication with President Carter on various occasions. President Royo also brought this matter before the UN General Assembly.

It is time to start looking for the formal diplomatic channels through which to explain our differences and to find a way to solve them. The main cause of the controversy is clearly the fact that the Murphy Law, unilaterally approved by the U.S. Congress, alters the Panama Canal treaties.

[Question] Dr Lopez Guevara, when you negotiated the treaties, didn't you foresee situations such as these?

[Answer] Certainly we did; therefore we tried to negotiate a provision for arbitration, but we were unsuccessful. The negotiators may be criticized for many things; but not for any lack of effort, among other things, to establish an arbitration procedure. We simply failed.

However, arbitration is an international formula for the solution of conflicts. In fact, it has been raised as a possibility. I take this opportunity to

publically state that I recommend that the national government propose arbitration to the United States to solve a number of conflicts. Above all, I believe the violations stem from the fact that the Panama Canal Commission and the board of directors, are not complying with the provisions of the treaties.

Before applying a discriminatory wage scale established by the Canal Commission, the board of directors should have met and approved the present wage scale. I repeat, however, that the wage scale was not approved by the Canal Commission because this was done by an organization before the treaties entered into effect.

[Question] In your opinion, then, there is a flaw in procedure, with regard to making effective the Panamanian position and its members of the board of directors?

[Answer] It is a flaw of procedure that affects the substance of the treaties, because Panama and the United States agreed on a working mechanism so that Panama could acquire experience by working inside the Panama Canal Commission through the board of directors, the only executive body agreed on by the parties to handle and manage the Panama Canal.

[Question] Dr Lopez Guevara, you mentioned unilateral measures. Could such measures, in your opinion, be due to unilateral interpretations allowed by the texts of the treaties?

[Answer] It is obvious that regardless of how careful one is to try to make a legal document as clear as possible, there will always be discrepancies of opinion. What must not be allowed is the unilateral interpretation because these constitute an abuse of power. That is why if there are differences in the interpretation of an article or paragraph of the treaties, and the two parties fail to reach an agreement on the true meaning or scope of such an article or paragraph, the treaties offer a means for solving such differences, such as conciliation, mediation and arbitration. [End recording]

CSO: 3010/452

BRIEFS

'CRITICA' ON CANAL OFFICIAL--We Panamanians are used to the old tricks used by the enemies of our people. Life itself and our long struggle for our national cause have taught us how to detect and counter these tricks which are sometimes contrived directly and at other times are contrived by means of their native collaborators. One of the tricks used by the colonialists is pitting Panamanians against others, following a Machiavellian plan to "divide and conquer." Again this can be seen in the appointment of the director of the public relations office of the Panama Canal Commission. Now it turns out that after many ins and outs and after rejecting Panamanian citizens who have the proven capacity and nationalistic spirit for the position, the conspirator Anel Beliz has been given the post. Of course, the Democratic Revolutionary Party is aware of the divisionist and markedly anti-Panamanian maneuver behind his appointment, which has naturally been rejected by the national newsmen. [Text] [PA202124 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Nov 81 p 11]

'CRITICA' CRITICISM OF U.S. OFFICIAL--Dwight McKnabey is the man who is standing in the way of good management of the Canal Commission. His negative attitude has been corroborated through inquiries and investigations carried out for several months. McKnabey, one of the U.S. legal advisers to the Panama Canal Commission, is an expert in creating bureaucratic problems. He is a stickler for detail to the point that he stands in the way to a constructive relation between U.S. and Panamanian officials in charge of implementing the Torrijos-Carter treaties. What is even worse is that Dwight McKnabey is protected by diplomatic status which gives him privileges of which he constantly takes advantage. We hope that the authorities take notice of this situation which constitutes another pebble in the shoe of the inadequate relations created by U.S. interpretation of the Canal treaty. [By Carlos J. Nunez L.] [Text] [PA282200 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Nov 81 p 4]

NEW ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR--Hernan Cueva Egiguren, the new Ecuadorean ambassador, presented his credentials to Panamanian President Aristides Royo today at a ceremony at the presidency. [PA192215 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2245 GMT 18 Nov 81]

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR--Cesar Rondon Lovera, the new Venezuelan ambassador, delivered his credentials to President Aristides Royo today. [PA192215 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2245 GMT 18 Nov 81]

COMMUNIQUE WITH COLOMBIA QUESTIONED--The joint communique which the Panamanian Government intends to show to the world as a certificate clearing it of any guilt in connection with the arms smuggling, issued by the aggrieved party, gives rise to more questions than it answers. The communique seems to be the result of protracted bargaining in which the Panamanian side must have undertaken serious secret commitments in exchange for a document which is not worth the paper on which it is written. In fact, it is only necessary to read the sarcastic press comments published in Bogota after the communique's release or the recent statement by the Colombian foreign minister. These leave no doubt that the government of the neighboring country never took the document seriously and had no intention of abiding by it since [Colombian Foreign Minister Carlos] Lemos explained the charges that gave rise to the communique point by point and even alluded to the five Panamanian youths being held in Colombia, directly blaming our government for their plight. Having again been caught while engaged in its shady dealings, the Panamanian Government has chosen an easy, distasteful and undignified way out that will backfire on its disastrously sooner or later. [Text] [PA071813 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Dec 81 p 1]

RECOGNITION OF POLITICAL PARTY--The Panamanian Electoral Tribunal has issued a resolution legally recognizing the People's Action Party [PAPO], ordering its registry in the political party book and recognizing Carlos Ivan Zuniga Guardia as party president and legal representative. [PA082323 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Dec 81 pp 1, A-14]

AMBASSADOR TO BELIZE--Newsman Rafael Vargas Santos has been appointed Panamanian ambassador to Belize and has received that country's approval. [PA082323 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Dec 81 p 2]

CSO: 3010/452

DAILY ANSWERS GOVERNMENT'S CHARGES

PY082010 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Dec 81 p 10

[Editorial: "Unacceptable Accusations Against the Press"]

[Text] Our colleagues LA TRIBUNA and HOY yesterday published some remarks made by "circles linked to officials charged with security and intelligence services" in connection with the detention of journalists. The above circles contend that the detention of journalists "is being used as part of an unending campaign of aggression against the national government" and charged the written and oral news media "with having devoted their spaces and pages for quite some time now to creating discontent and confusion, with distorting facts, with forging events and even with concealing positive realities" through the use of "words filled with suspicion and double meanings under the broad freedom of the press guaranteed by the legally constituted authorities in keeping with the constitution." The above circles concluded by vowing "to firmly defend public peace and the people's tranquility, the freedom of the press itself and, complying with our unavoidable responsibility, measures designed to prevent subversion and chaos will be adopted as often as it may become necessary. This can in no way empower anyone to question our state of law much less those national officials who made this state of law possible." We do not know which "circles" made these remarks because we have not received a copy of the appropriate document.

Yet since we are part of the national press--which has been accused at large--for our part, we ought to say that our action has been centered at all times on trying to show to the public, without reservations, our country's daily realities--whether good, not so good or definitely bad.

Therefore, the charge that the press has been using words filled with suspicion or with double meanings is unacceptable because we have always spoken quite clearly both to praise and to criticize. Equally unacceptable is the attempt to undermine the right to criticize acts carried out in a state of law which, like the case of the detained journalists, go against the state of law itself.

Perhaps what those "circles" do not understand or do not want to understand is that it is not the state of law which is being questioned but instead it is being defended when someone criticizes actions or omissions which are detrimental to its enforcement. It is one of the obligations of independent press to make such criticism.

CSO: 3010/444

'ULTIMA HORA' JOURNALIST, CHIEF EDITOR ARRESTED

Press Club Protests Arrest

PY011626 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Nov 81 p 14

[Text] Yesterday the Press Club expressed its concern over the "evidently illegal" arrest of the member journalist Felix Humberto Paiva, deputy editor of the newspaper ULTIMA HORA. The organization invites the authorities to consider the following points:

"What is intended by acts of this nature? To frighten reporters, to subdue any of them so that the others will learn a lesson, as seems the case of our fellow newsman Paiva?" According to the communique, enough time has probably elapsed by now to prove that "a terrible mistake has been made with his arrest, since he had no responsibility whatsoever in the case that is being attributed to him."

"A reporter, as any other worker, is susceptible to making mistakes in practicing his profession. This does not mean to say that such mistakes are always made by bad intention, as thought by the police authorities. Besides, there are appropriate means to redress these mistakes, and not the brutal arrest of the allegedly responsible person; we say 'allegedly' because, as prescribed by law, the legal responsibility for what is published in the communications media falls on the persons who manage them."

Further on the communique points out that in the specific case of the headline that is depriving Paiva of his liberty, "It is possible to claim that there was no distortion despite the fact that the quotation was not literal. Father Schiavon did not say that 'Pilar is dying,' but he implied it when he asserted that the city had a vital lung and that at this moment that lung was 'a bit ill and had begun to cough.'"

The communique ends saying that for these and other reasons, the administrative committee of the Press Club requests the immediate freedom of Felix Humberto Paiva, so that he will be able to continue practicing his profession freely, as provided by the constitution and the laws.

Chief Editor Detained

PY022302 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Dec 81 p 9

[Text] Fernando Cazenave, chief editor of this newspaper, was taken to the Central Police Department at noon today. Cazenave was picked up at the newspaper by three plainclothesmen who came looking for him and who took him to the Central Police Department.

In view of this situation, we sought information and have been able to find out that the orders to pick up Cazenave were issued by Gen Francisco Alcibiadez Britez, head of the Metropolitan Police. However, General Britez was not in his office when the journalist arrived at the Central Police Department.

Insp. Gen Faustino R. Benitez, the chief of public order, told us about the order of the police chief but was unable to say what the reasons for this order were. Cazenave's affair takes place while journalist Felix H. Paiva [also from ULTIMA HORA] is still being held incommunicado.

Journalist Released

PY031315 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Dec 81 p 13

[Text] Felix Humberto Paiva, deputy editor of the newspaper ULTIMA HORA, was released yesterday after being held incommunicado in the Technical Department of the Interior Ministry. The police yesterday also arrested Fernando Cazenave, chief editor of the same newspaper, who is being held at the Central Police Headquarters.

The arrest of the two journalists is linked with a report published by this newspaper on 25 November under the title: "Pilar Is Dying," a statement attributed to Father Federico Schiavon.

"I was well treated, I have no complaints, I only felt the uncertainty of being incommunicado," said Paiva to this newspaper after his release. ULTIMA HORA yesterday reported that three civilians went to the newspaper and took the chief editor to the Central Police Headquarters. It also reported that Police Chief Francisco Alcibiades Britez ordered the arrest of Cazenave.

CSO: 3010/417

DELEGATION TO NIGERIA TO START TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

PY011555 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 29 Nov 81 p 11

[Text] A national delegation recently appointed by the government to study the possibility of selling Paraguayan agricultural products to Nigeria and buying crude for PETROPAR [Paraguayan Petroleum Company] will carry out an important task during its visit to that African country.

The mission, which will leave for Nigeria today, is comprised of: Col Victor Boettner, head of the mission; Desiderio Enciso, PETROPAR manager; Nicolas Gimenez, of the Paraguayan Central Bank; and Alberto Antebi, representative of the vegetable oils and meat products producers.

According to information received, the quality of the Nigerian petroleum is very similar to that produced by Algeria; and since the Villa Elisa refinery is only able to refine that grade of petroleum it was decided to study the possibilities of starting negotiations with the Nigerian Government. This decision was strengthened by the fact that that nation purchases from abroad almost 80 percent of its supplies of soybeans, corn and other agricultural products and meat products.

In expert circles on the matter it has been stated that there is a great possibility of establishing a favorable trade exchange for our country with Nigeria, one of the main oil producers whose oil price at present is quoted at \$36 per barrel according to press reports from Lagos, capital of this nation. The national delegation will start its activities in Lagos next Tuesday and it is estimated that it will remain in the capital for 1 or 2 weeks depending on how negotiations go.

CSO: 3010/417

MOPOCO PROPOSES UNITY OF COLORADO PARTY

Document Released

PY031118 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Nov 81 p 11

[Text] In a document released yesterday through the National Accord, the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO] proposes the unity of the Colorado Party, and stresses the need to do away with "unfruitful past antagonisms." It also feels that party unity must be realized "without exclusions or limitations."

This political movement, which operates in exile, proposes the "opening of a transitional period toward a democratic, peaceful and orderly institutional regime."

The document states that the Colorado Party must be alert and watchful and in permanent mobilization, "ready to fill the empty spaces which may develop."

It adds: "To achieve this, it is absolutely necessary to strengthen our political organization through the consolidation of party unity, so that the party's powerful popular force and its influence in sectors of power, especially in the armed forces, may effectively focus on the decisions seeking the establishment of the democratic system which may replace the current regime."

It then adds that, "naturally, the unity we advocate must be based on the unrestricted implementation of the fundamental principles of the Colorado Party, that is, of domestic freedom, which must govern the exercise of party rights, and respect for the popular will, which must be expressed through the natural organizations of the party leadership."

It also states that MOPOCO feels that the unity of the party can be achieved "through the efforts made by men seeking to overcome unfruitful past antagonisms and it must be set up without exclusions or limitations."

Making an assessment of the national political situation, it adds that without the Colorado Party there can be no democracy in Paraguay, "but democracy will have no real effectiveness without the participation of the other political sectors that make up the civic society of the republic." The document is signed by Mario Mallorquin, Eduardo San Martin, Sandino Gil Oporto, Guido Arce Bazan, Fulgencio Aldana and others.

National Accord Disavows Document

PY031135 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 28 Nov 81 p 2

[Excerpt] National Accord Acting President Romulo Perina categorically denied yesterday that he is aware of any document issued by the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO] on the unity of the Colorado Party.

The MOPOCO document was published yesterday by a local morning newspaper. The document states in its first paragraph that it was released through the National Accord.

Nevertheless, the president of the National Accord and acting president of the Christian Democratic Party told this newspaper that he, as head of the National Accord, is absolutely unaware of the MOPOCO document. He also denied that the document was discussed in one of the sessions that he must preside over as president.

Moreover, the National Accord has stopped its activities, even its meetings, because of the political campaign being carried out by one of the parties--the Febrerist Party--that make up the organization. The campaign is being carried out in conjunction with the Febrerist convention taking place at this moment.

The MOPOCO document was reportedly distributed by one of the parties which make up the National Accord, without the knowledge of the acting president or of the coordinating board.

Perina will be head of the National Accord until the end of this year.

CSO: 3010/417

DETAINED PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT INTERVIEWED IN JAIL

PY041134 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Interview with inmate Perla Yore, a psychology student, at the Casa del Buen Pastor Jail in Asuncion on 3 December--recorded]

[Text] [Perla Yore] I want to clarify many things about my much-publicized trial in view of all the things that have happened. The first thing I need and want the public to know is that at no time have I refused to answer questions because I never had anything to hide. Yet at the Investigations Department, when I was warned that violence was going to be used against me, I refused to talk to Inspector Sapriza, who threatened me with skinning me, if necessary, to force me to declare that I was a communist and that I had been in Moscow. So I refused to talk to him and asked for paper and pencil and voluntarily drafted a statement on 24 legal-size sheets which I then typed. Then I asked Inspector Cantero to send that voluntarily written statement to the judge but he did not heed my request. They then questioned me and sent a biased version to the judge.

[Question] Now, what can you tell us about the charges concerning possession of books and your travels abroad. Have you been in Buenos Aires, for instance?

[Answer] Well, due to economic problems my entire family went to Buenos Aires early in 1966, where we stayed for approximately 9 years. After finishing high school, I started to work there. Naturally, to do this I had to obtain a legal Argentine document and it is not true that a subversive Argentine commando secured me that document. I told Inspector Cantero about all this and asked him to investigate into the source of my Argentine identification card as well as those of the other members of my family. Since we resided in Buenos Aires for approximately 10 years, our documents were perfectly legal.

[Question] Did you work in any Argentine enterprise?

[Answer] I worked at the Rigolo Glassware Shop for 5 years. Incidentally, 2 months ago I received my certificate of service from that company--duly legalized at the Argentine Foreign Ministry and Paraguayan Consulate--which is already at the court.

[Question] Did you at any time visit any other country?

[Answer] Yes. When I was already back in Asuncion, I went to Montevideo for 5 days on a Holy Week excursion organized by the Brujula Tourism Agency. In 1978, I went on an exclusive 12-day vacation trip to Rio de Janeiro organized by ABC Tourism. I made all these quite clear, that is, that these were my only two travels abroad.

[Question] Fine. Now regarding your activities here at the jail, we know that you are a university student and that you should carry on your studies...

[Answer] Well, I kept on studying at first because many professors such as Professor (Chinaglia) and Father (Vera Smith), who are my professors at the Catholic University, visited me regularly and offered to let me take my exams here. At first I kept on studying but then in view of my situation I no longer felt animated to keep on studying. I have been carrying out voluntary work at the canteen and other voluntary activities.

CSO: 3010/417

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING--The Paraguayan Central Bank has reported that the cost of living from January to November 1981 rose 13.1 percent. [PY071309 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 2 Dec 81 p 9]

1982 BUDGET--The Senate has passed the law that approves the general budget for 1982. The document foresees an income of 291,898,279,422 guaranies and expenditures of 282,902,514,241 guaranies. The overall increase over the 1981 budget is of about 30 percent. [PY071309 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Nov 81 p 12]

FEBRERISTA PARTY ELECTS PRESIDENT--Alarico Guinonez has been elected chairman of the executive committee of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party. He ruled out the participation of his party in national elections. [PY071309 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 29 Nov 81 p 9]

OFFICIAL MISSION TO NIGERIA--An official mission headed by Victor Boettner has traveled to Nigeria with the purpose of negotiating the exchange of Paraguayan meat for Nigerian crude oil. [PY071309 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 30 Nov 81 p 9]

1981 INFLATION RATE--Central Bank President Cesar Romeo Acosta Hare reported that the inflation rate will not surpass 14 percent in 1981. He also said that the rediscount rates of the banks will be raised in 1982. [PY071309 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Nov 81 p 12]

PRISONERS' RELEASE DEMANDED--The release of Paraguayan political prisoners is being demanded. The FRG-Cuban Friendship Association [La Asociacion de Amistad RFA-Cuba] demanded today in Bonn, the capital of West Germany, the release of Antonio Maidana, secretary general of the Paraguayan Communist Party, and of all political prisoners in that country. The declaration urges the FRG Government and all democratic organizations to intercede asking for the release of Maidana, who was kidnapped last year in Argentina and taken to Paraguay. The document states that Maidana is currently detained at the Emboscada concentration camp, close to Asuncion, and that he has been the object of barbarous tortures. He is also kept incommunicado. The FRG-Cuban Friendship Association recalls in its declaration that Maidana had been under arrest for more than 19 years in Paraguay and that he has now been threatened with death. [Text] [FL011615 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1505 GMT 1 Dec 81]

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